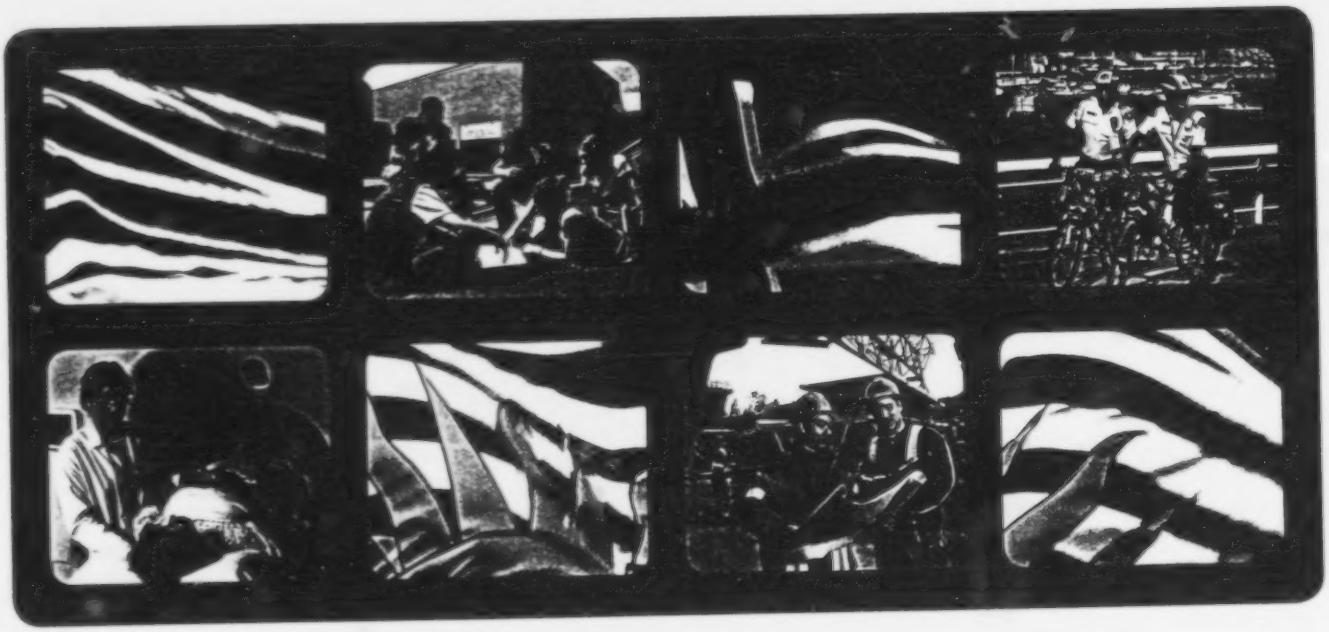
Government of British Columbia

Summary Annual Strategic Plan Report



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It's my pleasure to present the fourth Annual Report of the Government of British Columbia.

When we came into office four years ago, we committed to report regularly on how the government is progressing on its initiatives. We have issued a report every year since then describing in detail what we have done to meet our commitments.

While this annual report describes our progress of the last fiscal year, it is also an opportunity to review how far we have come in four short years. In 2001, we were elected to revitalize the economy, reduce taxes, get the province's fiscal house in order, fix the health care system, and improve our education system. Thanks to the leadership and commitment of British Columbians across the province, we have made great progress in achieving each of these goals.

For the first time in nearly two decades, British Columbia leads Canada in economic growth, confirming that our plan is working. We lead the nation in job creation with over 200,000 new jobs created since December 2001 and the lowest unemployment rate since 1981. B.C. is now number one in growth of housing starts in the country, and we're the only province where housing starts are expected to continue to rise this year. Energy investment has doubled since 2000. Investment in mining exploration has quadrupled since 2000. B.C.'s biotech industry is the fastest-growing in Canada.

We have balanced the provincial budget and laid the foundation for long-term fiscal sustainability. Thanks to our strong fiscal position, we have been able to make a $1.9 billion paydown of the provincial debt, the largest single-year reduction in B.C. history. At the same time, we have delivered the lowest income taxes in Canada for people with low and middle incomes.

This strong economic and fiscal foundation is giving us more capacity to make long-term investments in health care, education and social supports for people in need.

We are making real progress in improving our health care system. We have nearly doubled the number of doctors in training - the first increase in medical training seats since 1980 - and added over 2,500 new nurse-training spaces since 2001 - a 62 per cent increase in just three years. We have added, replaced or upgraded over 4,000 residential care and assisted living units for seniors since 2001, with another 1,700 units under way.

These investments are helping our health care system today, but will also benefit B.C. patients for generations to come.

In education, there is now an additional annual investment of $2 billion (2001-07) with the highest kindergarten-to-Grade-12 funding in British Columbia's history and the largest expansion of post-secondary spaces in 40 years. There are new universities in Kamloops and Kelowna, a new Simon Fraser University campus in Surrey, and expansions to colleges and institutes across our province as part of our plan to add 25,000 post-secondary student spaces by 2010.

Thanks to our strong economy, we have been able to provide more supports for people in need. For example, we have made the single largest increase in income assistance for persons with disabilities in B.C. history. We have the highest budget for social housing; we have funded the highest budget ever for transition houses; and, we are investing more than ever in mental health, addictions treatment, and supports for the homeless.

We are determined to build on the momentum and the progress of the past four years. To accomplish that, we have established Five Great Goals for the decade ahead:

1. *To make British Columbia the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.*
2. *To lead the way in North America in physical fitness and healthy living.*
3. *To build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk, and seniors.*
4. *To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.*
5. *To create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.*

We will continue to work hard in the years ahead to bring out the best in British Columbia. We face some exciting times in our province. The foundation for growth and opportunity is now in place. Working together, we will build on the momentum of the last four years and give the next generation of British Columbians an even brighter future.

Gordon Campbell
Premier

Goal: A Strong and Vibrant Provincial Economy

Objective	Measure	Comment
a) British Columbia will have a Skilled Workforce	**The percentage of the labour force with post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree.** **Target:** Increase the percentage from the 2001 baseline of 51.3 per cent[1]. **Results[2]:** (2004) 52.4%	**Target Exceeded.** Results increased slightly from 52.2 per cent in 2003 to 52.4 per cent in 2004. The measure reflects the number of credentials granted in B.C., and the number of persons with credentials gained through inter-provincial and international net migration, as well as the size and age distribution of the workforce. There have been very minor year-over-year fluctuations, though an increasing trend since 2002. By protecting funding to post-secondary institutions and encouraging efficiencies, post secondary institutions delivered more seats, supporting the production of additional credentials.
	Persons employed in natural and applied sciences as a percentage of total employment in British Columbia. **Target:** Increase the percentage of individuals employed in natural and applied science occupations as a percentage of total employment from the 2001 baseline of 6.1 per cent. **Results:** (2004) 5.8%	**Target not Achieved.** The average annual employment in natural and applied science occupations fell in 2004. However, employment in these occupations has recovered strongly in 2005 and by the end of the year we expect this target to be met.It is worth noting that the unemployment rate in natural and applied sciences has been consistently lower than the all-industry average. For instance in 2004 it was 5.8 per cent compared to the overall B.C. average of 7.2 per cent. Government continues to invest heavily in post-secondary education and in research to increase the number of British Columbians with skills in natural and applied research.
b) British Columbia will have a Prosperous Economy	**Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.** **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 8th place growth in Canada. **Result[1]:** (2004) 2.8% growth (Rank 2nd)	**Target Exceeded.** B.C. experienced robust real GDP growth in 2004 - the highest among provinces – demonstrating business and consumer confidence in the economy. Population growth in B.C. was higher than Saskatchewan for 2004. This resulted in B.C. ranking second among the provinces, behind Saskatchewan in terms of annual growth in real GDP per capita in 2004.
	Real GDP per hour worked in the business sector indicates overall efficiency of our labour efforts. **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 4th place in Canada. **Result[1]:** (2004) $31.40 (Rank 6th)	**Target not Achieved.** B.C. currently ranks 6th in Canada. Employment grew strongly in B.C. for 2004, and the business sector in particular saw an increase of 5.2 per cent in hours worked. Real GDP in the business sector also posted robust growth in 2004 of 4.8 per cent. As a result of hours worked growing faster than real GDP in the business sector, labour productivity in British Columbia decreased slightly in 2004. B.C.'s productivity is expected to improve in the years ahead as the economy continues to diversify into new areas and businesses invest in new productivity-boosting equipment.
	Total amount of gross fixed business investment as a percentage of provincial GDP. **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 5th place in Canada. **Result[2]:** (2004) 19.3% (Rank 3rd)	**Target Exceeded.** This indicator has been improving as business and consumer confidence in the economy has rebounded. In 2004, this indicator experienced strong growth, reflecting increases in machinery and equipment as well as residential investment. At 19.3 per cent, 2004's result is the highest since 1981.
c) British Columbia will have Employment Opportunities	**The employment to population ratio of individuals aged 15 to 64.** **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 5th place in Canada. **Result[2]:** (2004) 70.9% (Rank 5th)	**Results Maintained.** British Columbia has maintained its baseline ranking of fifth among provinces in terms of the percentage of the working population aged 15 to 64. Employment growth has been robust since 2001, outpacing population growth in the 15 to 64 age group and resulting in an increase in the employment rate.
	Net new jobs in British Columbia. **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 9th place growth in Canada in year over year job growth for December. **Result[2]:** (2004) 1.6% (Rank 5th)	**Target Exceeded.** After two years of robust job growth in B.C. (December to December), 2004 saw a slower pace of job creation in December. This resulted in a fifth place ranking among provinces for employment growth in December 2004 relative to December 2003.
	Real personal disposable income per capita. **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 level of 3rd place in Canada. **Result:** (2004) $20,002 (Rank 3rd)	**Results Maintained.** B.C. maintained its third place ranking among provinces in terms of real personal disposable income per capita. The level of real personal income per capita continues to increase relative to the previous year of $19,758 per person in 2003, reaching $20,002 per person in 2004.
d) Government will be Affordable and Fiscally Responsible	**Balance the provincial government budget.** **Target:** Balanced annually beginning in 2004/05. **Result:** (2004/05) Sizeable surplus exceeding initial target of $100 million by $2.5 billion.	**Target Exceeded.** Government's plan to balance the budget in 2004/05 received some major boosts due to robust economic performance and increased federal transfers. These factors enabled a reduction in the provincial sales tax rate, an acceleration of key commitments and an increased paydown of debt, while still recording a provincial surplus.

	Taxpayer-supported debt in relation to the size of the GDP. **Target:** Annually reduce the province's taxpayer supported debt to GDP ratio once a balanced budget is achieved in 2004/05. **Result:** (2004/05) (18.3%)	**Target Exceeded.** The decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio exceeded Budget 2004 projections due to a $1.4 billion pay down of taxpayer-supported debt and the impact of the robust economic performance on provincial GDP.
	Provincial government expenditure as a percentage of GDP. **Target:** Reduce the level of provincial government expenditure from the restated 2001/02 baseline of 22.9 per cent of GDP. **Result**[4]: (2004/05) 19.6%	**Target Exceeded.** Economic growth continues to outpace increases in government spending, despite major increases to health care and education funding.

1. The 2001 baseline has been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada.
2. The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.
3. Real GDP per hours worked in the business sector has been revised to reflect a slight change in the definition of this measure. Construction of this measure had to be adjusted due to data availability from Statistics Canada.
4. Percentage has been restated to reflect current accounting policies and Statistics Canada GDP revisions.

Goal: A Supportive Social Fabric

Objective	Measure	Comment
a) British Columbians will be Healthy	**The rate of potential years of life lost per 1,000 population from all causes of premature death.** **Target:** Decrease the potential years of life lost from the 1995-2000 average of 51.2[1] per 1,000 population. **Result:** (2004) 45.7	**Target Exceeded.** This measure has showed consistent decline over the past four years, a trend that is consistent with several other provinces.
	The percentage of all live births weighing below 2,500 grams. **Target:** Decrease the percentage of all live births weighing below 2,500 grams from the 2000 baseline of 5.1 per cent. **Result:** (2004) 5.6%	**Target not Achieved.** The slightly increasing rate of low birth weight is likely attributable to the higher proportion of older mothers giving birth. Older mothers (age 35+) now account for one out of five births in British Columbia, and account for one out of four low birth weight live births. Poverty, low education levels and smoking during pregnancy can also impact birth weights. Government strategies to support those most in need, encourage healthy living, and promote making healthy choices during pregnancy will assist in keeping B.C.'s rate of low birth weight babies low, and help babies get a healthy start to their lives.
	The rate of status Indians who die in the first year of life. **Target:** The rate of infant mortality among the status Indian population is not statistically different to that of the general population of British Columbia. **Result:** (5 yr avg 2002) 4.4 : 4.0	**Data not available.** Pending agreement with the federal government for the status Indians verification file.
b) British Columbians will be Educated	**The percentage of the population aged 25 to 54, who have completed a university education.** **Target:** Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 4th place in Canada. **Result:** (2004) 22.6% (Rank 2nd)	**Target Exceeded.** Results for 2004 (22.6%) were higher than the baseline (20.3%). The measure reflects the number of degrees granted in B.C., and the number of persons with university degrees gained through inter-provincial and international net migration. Although there have been year-over-year fluctuations, this measure has been on an upward trend since 1990.
	The percentage of students who start Grade 8 and graduate from Grade 12 within six years. **Target:** Annual improvement from the 2000/01 baseline of 76 per cent. **Result:** (2003/04) 79%	**Target Exceeded.** School completion rates are a key measure of the success of our education system. They provide tangable evidence that a student has succeeded in the K-12 education system, and because it acts as a passport to either post-secondary education or the job market, they provide a good indication of later life success.
	The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in Grade 4 reading is an early success indicator. **Target:** Annual improvement from the 2000/01 baseline of 78 per cent. **Result:** (2003/04) 80%	**Target Exceeded.** The data gathered from the Foundation Skills Assessment provides a look at performance on a broad scale and allows a focused response at the individual school level, the district level or the provincial level. FSA is a standardized measure, designed by B.C. teachers to reflect the B.C. eductaion system's curriculum. Current results indicate students in grade four are learning in B.C.'s educational system.

c) British Columbians will have a Fair and Efficient System of Justice.	**The proportion of small claims cases settled through out-of-court mediation in the Court Mediation program.** **Target:** Improve upon the 2000/01 baseline of 56 per cent. **Result:** (2004/05) 52%	**Target not Achieved.** The change in the settlement rate for 2004/05 can be attributed to some highly experienced mediators leaving the roster to pursue other career options, while at the same time, new mediators were entering. The settlement rate is expected to increase as the new mediators become more experienced.
	The proportion of adult offenders who do not re-offend for two years following corrections supervision. **Target:** Increase the proportion of adult offenders who do not re-offend from the 2001/02 baseline of 69 per cent. **Result:** (2004/05) 71%	**Target Exceeded.** Correctional research has confirmed that providing programs that target dynamic risk factors among higher-risk offenders can reduce re-offending behaviour.
	The median number of days to disposition from first appearance for criminal cases (represents all criminal and quasi-criminal matters and related applications, including those that enter the system, but do not proceed to trial). **Target:** Reduce the median number of days to disposition from 2000/01 baseline of 46 days. **Result:** (2004/05) 56 days	**Target not Achieved.** The results for 2004/05 reflect an increasing proportion of high-risk, complicated criminal cases entering the court system, while lower-risk cases are diverted to out-of-court alternatives without entering the system. Complex criminal cases require many court appearances to consider the range of legal issues and technical evidence involved. This means that large volumes of documents must be processed. In contrast, lower-risk cases require fewer, or no, court resources. If the low-risk cases that are now resolved out of court had been included in the calculation of this measure as they were in past years, there would have been a reduction in the median number of days to disposition and the target would have been met.
d) British Columbians will be Self-Sufficient	**The percentage of British Columbia's population receiving income assistance.** **Target:** Reduce the percentage of the population receiving income assistance from the 2001/02 baseline of 6.2[1] per cent. **Result:** (2004/05) 3.6%	**Target Exceeded.** The result has been on a steady decline since June 2001. The introduction of ammendments to the existing legislation in April 2002 marked the beginning of a sharp decline in the income assistance case load. The introduction of the *Employment and Assistance Act* and *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* in September 2002 continued this trend. More British Columbians have found alternatives to income assistance since June 2001.
	The percentage of individuals receiving temporary income assistance who are capable of financial independence through employment. **Target:** Reduce the percentage of persons receiving income assistance who are capable of financial independence through employment from the 2001/02 baseline of 76 per cent. **Result:** (2004/05) 55%[2]	**Target Exceeded.** All temporary assistance clients have employment-related obligations, except for those who are not required to seek work (e.g. parents of a young child). A decline in this measure indicates government has been successful in supporting those who can leave income assistance to work.
	Aboriginal capacity building (measure under development) **Target:** Under development.	**Under development.**

1. The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.
2. Calculation of this measure now includes the group of Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers to employment.

Goal: Safe, Healthy Communities And A Sustainable Environment

Objective	Measure	Comment
a) British Columbia will have Safe Communities	**The number of personal and property crimes known to police per 1,000 population.** **Target:** Decrease the number of personal and property crimes from the 2001 baseline of 77.2 per 1,000 populations[1]. **Result:** (2004) 79.6[2]	**Target not Achieved.** Although in 2004, there was a decrease in the number of personal and property crimes known to police per 1,000 population, from that reported in 2003, the decrease did not meet the 2001 baseline target. Several factors are believed to affect crime rates, including demographics, technological change, victim response to crime, and influences on police enforcement practices. Government continues to fight crime with new resources and law enforcement strategies, including funding for an additional 215 police officers over three years.
	The percentage of British Columbians reporting satisfaction with their personal safety from crime. **Target:** Improve the percentage of British Columbians reporting satisfaction with their personal safety from crime from the 2001/02 baseline of 84 per cent. **Result:** More recent data for this measure will not be available until Fall 2005 when results of the 2004 Statistics Canada General Social Survey are released.	**Data not available.**

b) British Columbians will Practice Sustainable Resource Development	**The percentage of land and water tenure applications processed within established turnaround times as an indicator of quality of service delivery.** **Target:** 90 per cent of applications will be processed within 140 days from the 2001/02 baseline of greater than 400 days. **Result:** (2004/05) 94% of applications processed within 140 days.	**Target Exceeded.**
	The hectares of Crown and forest land in British Columbia certified by major forest certification processes. **Target:** Increase the proportion of forest certification by 15 per cent from the 2002/03 baseline of 14.9 million hectares. **Result:** (2004/05) 29.5 M ha; 98% percent increase since 02/03.	**Target Exceeded.** Industry recognizes that certification helps meet the interests of customers by demonstrating a commitment to sustainable forest management[5].
c) British Columbia will have a Healthy Physical Environment	**The percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-Wide Standard (CWS) quality objective of amount of fine particulates in the air under 2.5 microns per cubic metre of air (PM2.5).** **Target:** 100% of communities monitored achieve, or continue to achieve, the CWS for PM2.5 from the baseline of ten communities in 2001[6]. **Result:** 2004, 14 of 16 communities achieved or continued to achieve, the CWS for PM2.5.	**Results Maintained.** More communities are able to produce statistically reliable results on their air quality measures. The results indicate a positive trend that is expected to continue. Scientific studies are being conducted to identify the contributing sources to elevated PM2-5 levels in the two communities that did not achieve the standard.
	The percentage of drinking water samples with detectable fecal coli form or E. coli bacteria. (Note: this measure and associated target has been reworded to match what is in the 2005/06 Strategic Plan. **Target:** Reduce the percentage of drinking water samples[3] with detectable fecal coliform or E. coli from the 2001 baseline of 2.4%. **Result:** (2004) 1.5%	**Target was Exceeded.** Government has dedicated additional resources to drinking water and water source protection to enhance the quality of drinking water in British Columbia[3].
	The trends in environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients, that indicate the health of 30 water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement. **Target:** Maintain or improve water quality trends for water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement. (2002/03 baseline) 90% of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies have stable or improving water quality trends. **Result:** (2004/05) 96%	**Target Met.** In 2004/05, 96 per cent of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies had stable or improving water quality trends, which is an improvement in results.
d) British Columbia will have Sustainable Natural Resources	**The amount of new electricity produced from environmentally responsible sources.** **Target:** At least 50 per cent of new electricity supply will come from environmentally responsible sources[4]. **Result:** (2004/05) 100%	**Target Exceeded.**
	The percentage of known native species that are threatened or endangered in the province. **Target:** Improve on the province's 2000 baseline of 14.2 per cent for species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, ferns and orchids at risk. **Result:** No new data will be available until the 2005 national report is published in 2006.	**Data not available.**

1 The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.

2 Note that 2004 data are preliminary. Final data will not be available until July 2005.

3 The BC Centre for Disease Control tested samples in the following numbers across the province: 56,024 in 2001; 53,026 in 2002; 57,887 in 2003; and 66,831 in 2004.

4 This measure was refined from that used in the 2002/03 Annual Strategic Plan Report and is intended to reflect the commitments made in the province's energy plan entitled *"Energy for our Future: A Plan for B.C."*

5 Note: A combination of reporting dates was used in previous reports. Starting in 2003 the data is available only twice a year (in December and June). The data presented here have been adjusted to show December to December performance. December was chosen as the reporting date in order to achieve Government's annual reporting timelines.

6 2003 data has been revised to reflect the inclusion of an additional reporting station.

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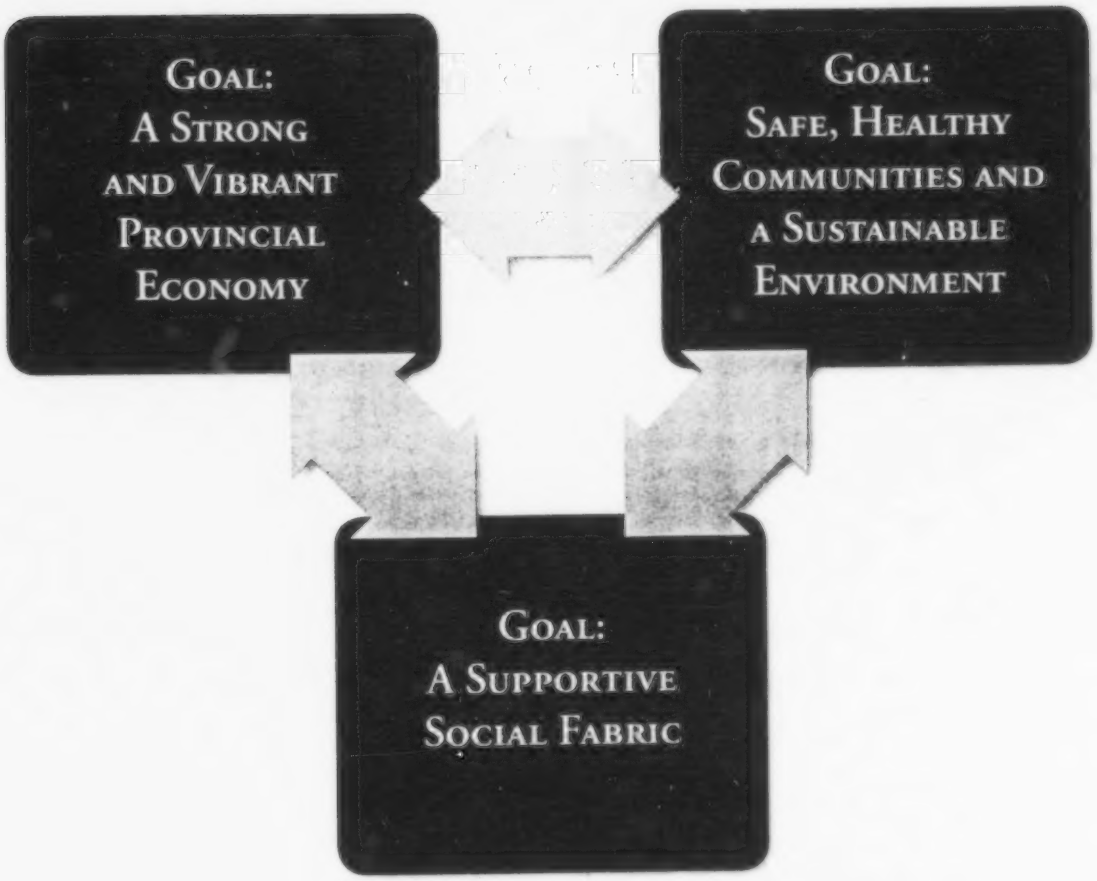
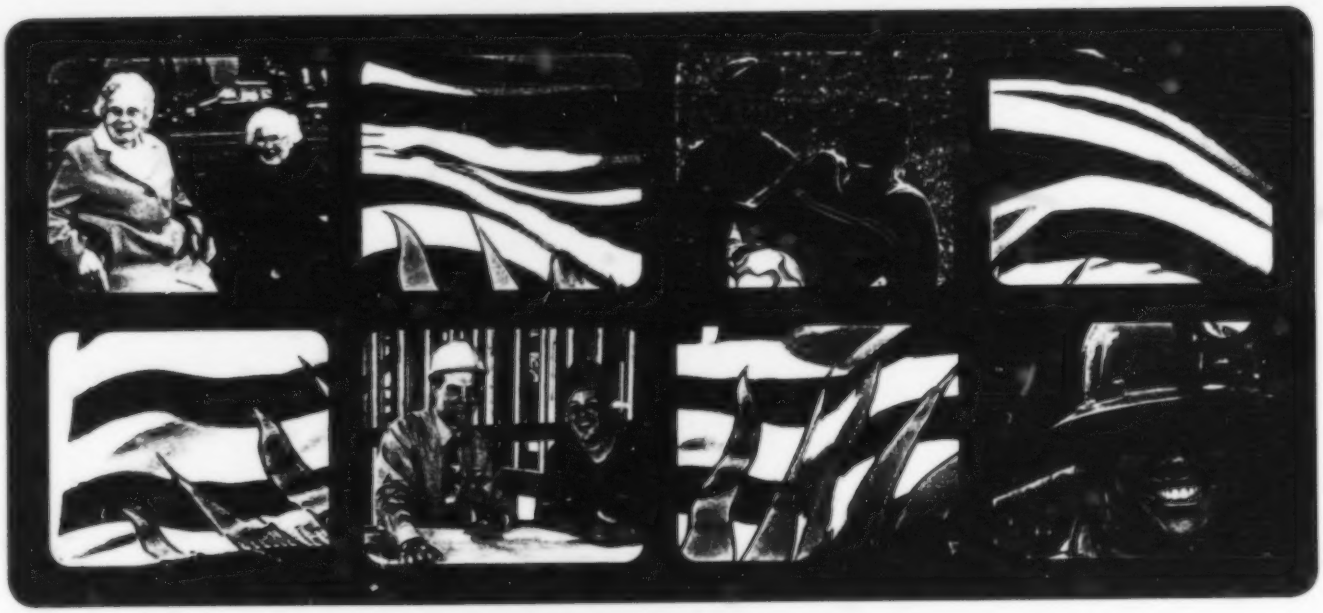
Vision

British Columbia is a prosperous and just province whose citizens achieve their full potential and have confidence in the future.



Management Themes for Government

Government is innovative, enterprising, results-oriented and accountable.



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Please send your comments to:

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GOAL: SAFE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Please Note: On June 16, 2005, the government ministries were re-organized to reflect the new cabinet responsibilities. Many of the website addresses and links in this printed report may have changed following the government re-organization.

- A list of the new ministries is available on the government website at http://www.gov.bc.ca — follow the links to Ministries and Organizations.
- An index of all 2004/05 Annual Service Plan Reports, with up-to-date website links, is available online at http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annualreports/

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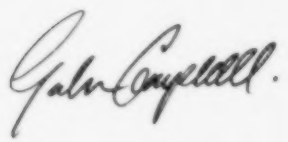
We will continue to work hard in the years ahead to bring out the best in British Columbia. We face some exciting times in our province. The foundation for growth and opportunity is now in place. Working together, we will build on the momentum of the last four years and give the next generation of British Columbians an even brighter future.



Gordon Campbell
Premier

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Annual Strategic Plan Report of the Government of British Columbia. This Report provides information to the public on the actions and activities that have been undertaken to achieve the government's strategic priorities set in 2001. The accomplishments outlined in this report indicate how well our public institutions have come together to achieve our priorities and to move us closer to our vision.

Reports such as these are important to ensure that public institutions remain open and accountable to taxpayers. This report demonstrates this by providing good information about our progress, showing where things are working well, and where there are opportunities for improvement.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

There has been a marked improvement over the past four years in government's ability to report on its performance. Through the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* (BTAA), government's strategic plan, and ministries' and Crown agencies' service plans are published annually to establish a clear framework against which results can be assessed. The BTAA requires that government, ministries and Crown agencies prepare and publish a three-year service plan, which includes goals, objectives, measures and targets. The BTAA also requires that government and Ministers table annual reports that compare actual results against the expectations set out in government's three-year strategic plan and ministry and Crown agency service plans. This Annual Strategic Plan Report compares actual results and performance against the targets established in the British Columbia Government's 2004/05 – 2006/07 Strategic Plan.

Determining the correct measures against which performance can be assessed is not an easy task. Performance measures that have been chosen focus on the outcomes of government's activities, are comparable across jurisdictions, and where possible, rely on third party data sources to substantiate progress. Some of the measures and targets included in this report have been refined from previous versions. These changes have been noted where they occur. In some cases targets have changed as Statistics Canada or BC Stats has updated historical information or modified data definitions.

Government's commitment to transparency and accountability remains strong. This Annual Strategic Plan Report provides information from the 'whole of government' to the public on the progress made on our strategic priorities. Individual ministries and Crown agencies report on the progress made on their goals and priorities through their annual service plan reports. This Report serves as the umbrella document for individual ministry and Crown agency reports. More detailed information about programs and progress is available in ministry and Crown agency reports and in the website links contained within this report.

TIMELINESS OF MEASURES

Good performance measures depend on reliable and valid information that is comparable across jurisdictions and over time. Many of the performance measures included in this report meet these criteria, while some do not. For some of the 32 performance measures, the most recent data available is for time periods prior to the 2004/05 fiscal year and may not reflect progress made over the past twelve months.

Government will continue to refine its performance measures over time, balancing the need for more timely information with the ability to identify measures that are comparable across provinces and jurisdictions. Government continues to make significant progress in achieving its goals and objectives, and on seeing positive results for its measures.

SELECTION OF MEASURES

The performance measures included in this report fall into three categories:

OUTPUT/WORKLOAD INDICATORS

Units produced or services provided by a program are output indicators. Workload measures indicate the amount of work performed (input) or the amount of services provided (output). For instance, the proportion of small claims settled through out of court mediation in the Court Mediation Program is an output indicator.

OUTCOME/EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Indicators that are designed to report the results (including quality) of the service are outcome measures. Effectiveness measurement examines how well government is meeting the public purpose it intends to fulfill. In other words, effectiveness refers to the degree to which services are contributing to the needs and desires of a community. It encompasses both quantity and quality aspects of a service. An example of an outcome indicator is the improving health of a particular population.

EFFICIENCY/COST-EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Efficiency measurement reports the ratio of the quantity of the service provided to the cost required to produce the service.

PROGRESS REPORT ON GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The assessment of progress for 2004/05 against the strategic actions set out in the Government's Strategic Plan 2004/05 – 2006/07 covers three main categories. Actions are considered:

- Achieved;
- On track to being achieved; or
- Commenced.

Future Strategic Plans and Reports

Future strategic plans and annual reports will be adapted to align with the goals outlined in the February 8, 2005 Speech from the Throne.

- To make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.
- To lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.
- To build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk, and seniors.
- To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
- To create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE 2004/05 STRATEGIC PLAN

British Columbia is a prosperous and just province whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future.

to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair and balanced

to implement affordable public policies

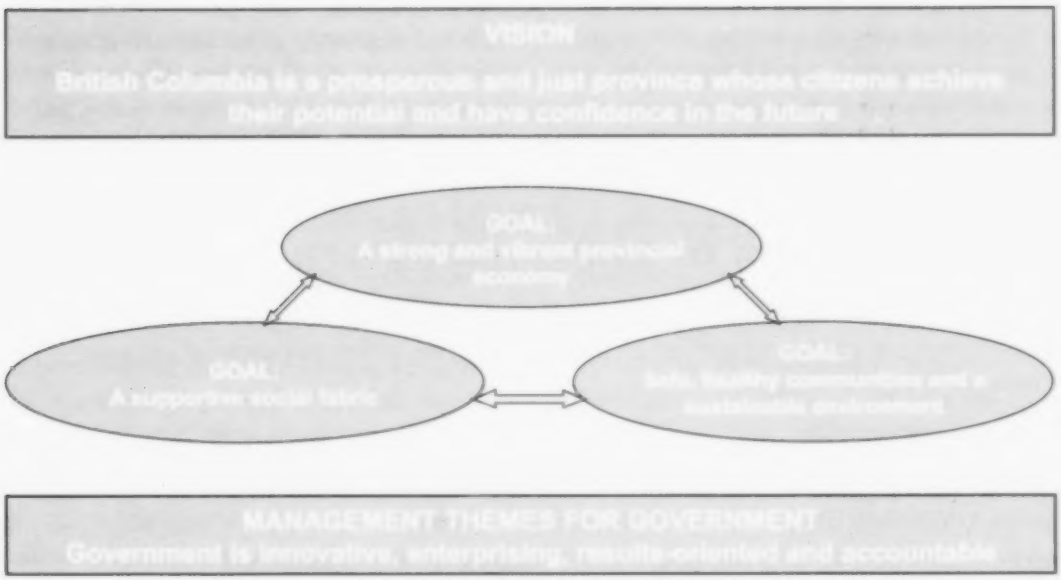
to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and credibility of government

to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully

to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination

In keeping with government's vision and values, three strategic goals were identified in 2001. These goals are:

- A strong and vibrant provincial economy;
- A supportive social fabric; and
- Safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment.


VISION
British Columbia is a prosperous and just province where citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future
GOAL:
A strong and vibrant provincial economy
GOAL:
A supportive social fabric
GOAL:
Safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment
MANAGEMENT THEMES FOR GOVERNMENT
Government is innovative, enterprising, results-oriented and accountable

This report is structured to provide information on the three strategic goals of government. It outlines government's major public policy commitments and actions and reports on progress toward achieving these goals in 2004/05. Progress is achieved through the implementation of a wide range of policies, programs and legislation throughout government. There is a significant interrelationship between the goals, objectives and performance measures in each section of this report. For example, a strong economy supports the government's ability to deliver social services, and environmental sustainability supports the health of British Columbians.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY MEASURES

GOAL: A STRONG AND VIBRANT PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

In 2001 government's plans to re-energize the provincial economy were set in motion. Tough decisions were needed to help turn the economy around after a decade of decline in B.C. The government worked hard with its partners, with other levels of government, with citizens, with the non-profit community and with the business community to return the province to prosperity. This hard work has paid off. British Columbia's economy now leads the country on several indicators. B.C. ranks number one in the country in economic growth, job growth, housing growth, and new investment growth. There's a new optimism in this province, which has meant more investment and more jobs in B.C. Our economic recovery is well underway, as evidenced by the data and actions outlined in this section. Much has been accomplished and much more is underway to ensure this recovery continues into the next decade.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY MEASURES

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A SKILLED WORKFORCE

The relationship between a skilled, trained and educated workforce and a vibrant economy is strong and crucial. To ensure our economy remains competitive with other jurisdictions, British Columbia needs a pool of skilled and productive workers available to employers. Traditional resource-based industries are evolving, using more technologically intense practices requiring a more skilled workforce.

Both measures identified under Objective A, "British Columbia will have a Skilled Workforce" have long-term targets that are affected by a variety of factors, not all of which are directly related to government policy or service delivery. The educational attainment of the workforce is affected by both international and inter-provincial migration of adults who tend on average to have educational attainment levels as high as or higher than their corresponding age group within the existing population. Other important factors that affect these measures include overall workforce growth, and the changing size and demographic composition of the workforce.

The government of British Columbia is continuing its efforts to raise the overall educational level of the workforce. In 2004, the percentage of the workforce with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in British Columbia increased over the previous year to 52.4 per cent. British Columbia was one of six provinces that experienced an improvement in this measure over 2003 results. Adjustments to education and training courses and content are key to addressing current and emerging skills needs. Another important government strategy that ensures a skilled workforce is the expansion of the public post-secondary system by 25,000 student spaces by 2010.

Keeping track of the number of British Columbians employed in the natural and applied sciences is another way to assess the general skill level of the workforce. People employed in this area include professional engineers, computer systems analysts and electronic technologists. In 2004, the proportion of the labour force employed in these occupations was 5.8 per cent, which was a half of a percentage point lower than the level in 2003. Employment in natural and applied science occupations tends to fluctuate, yet over the longer term this is the only broad occupational group where the projected number of employment openings due to economic growth is expected to be larger than the projected number of openings due to attrition.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A SKILLED WORKFORCE

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The percentage of the labour force with a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree.	This indicator measures the proportion of the workforce with post-secondary certification, whether completed in British Columbia or in another jurisdiction. It is important because a highly skilled workforce attracts investment and jobs, raises productivity, and increases workforce income. A knowledgeable and skilled workforce also helps our industries maintain a competitive edge in our global economy.	Target: Increase the percentage from the 2001 baseline of 51.3 per cent. Latest Results[1] — Year 50.1% — 2000 51.3% — 2001[2] 51.0% — 2002 52.2% — 2003 52.4% — 2004	Target Exceeded. The measure reflects the number of credentials granted in B.C., and the number of persons with credentials gained through inter-provincial and international net migration, as well as the size and age distribution of the workforce. Although year-over-year fluctuations have been modest, the data clearly indicates an increasing trend since 2002. By protecting funding to post-secondary institutions and encouraging efficiencies, post secondary institutions were able to deliver more seats, supporting the production of additional credentials.
Persons employed in natural and applied sciences as a percentage of total employment in British Columbia.	This is a measure that indicates the proportion of B.C.'s workers who work in professional and technical occupations in the sciences, including physical and life sciences, engineering and architecture. It is important because a workforce that can employ people with the knowledge and skills necessary for innovation can adapt and diversify to fill opportunities for new markets. Such a labour force can support research and development activities that encourage companies to locate within the province.	Target: Increase the percentage of individuals employed in natural and applied science occupations as a percentage of total employment from the 2001 baseline of 6.1 per cent. Latest Results — Year 6.4% — 2000 6.1% — 2001 6.0% — 2002 6.3% — 2003 5.8% — 2004	Target was not achieved in 2004. While the ratio fell in 2004, it has since recovered strongly in 2005 and by the end of the year we expect this target to be met. It is worth noting that the unemployment rate in natural and applied sciences has been consistently lower than the all industry average. For instance, in 2004 it was 5.8 per cent compared to the overall B.C. average of 7.2 per cent. Government continues to invest heavily in post-secondary education and in research to increase the number of British Columbians with skills in natural and applied sciences.

[1] The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.
[2] The 2001 baseline has been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

A strong and vibrant economy means more investment, more jobs, and more stability for families in British Columbia. It supports a higher standard of living and allows greater investment in programs and services for our citizens.

An important indicator of the strength of British Columbia's economy is the growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. British Columbia's real GDP per capita grew by 2.8 per cent in 2004, reflecting population growth of 1.1 per cent and total real GDP growth of 3.9 per cent (the fastest real GDP growth among provinces).

Labour productivity — as measured by real GDP per hour worked in the business sector — is a key indicator of British Columbia's relative domestic and international competitive position. While real GDP grew strongly over the past two years, employment in the business sector has grown at an even faster rate. As a result, business sector labour productivity in British Columbia has decreased slightly over the same period. British Columbia ranked sixth among provinces in terms of real GDP per hour worked in the business sector in 2004.

Total real business investment as a per cent of real GDP improved in 2004 to a third place ranking. British Columbia's gross fixed capital formation (total business investment) as a per cent of GDP in 2004 was above the national average and significantly higher than last year. British Columbia saw strong growth in residential investment, and machinery and equipment investment grew at a robust pace, boosting overall investment for 2004.

Government's strategy to re-energize the provincial economy continues to improve British Columbia's overall economic performance. The achievement of a stable and sustainable fiscal policy has reinforced consumer and investor confidence in the province. B.C.'s personal and business taxes continue to be more competitive and to make the province more attractive to investors. Government has surpassed its commitment to reduce the province's regulatory burden, developing a more efficient regulatory environment for business. Substantial investments in key infrastructure projects are being undertaken across the province to create new opportunities. In addition, government continues to make progress in revitalizing and fostering growth in key sectors of the economy, including forestry, oil and gas, mining, agriculture, high tech, ports and tourism.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.	GDP is the value added to the economy by the activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents that produce value. The growth rate of real GDP per capita is an effective measure of changes in the overall prosperity of a jurisdiction and its population. Increased growth in this measure means higher levels of purchasing power, real personal income and wages and salaries.	Target: Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 8th place growth in Canada. Latest Result[3] — Rank — Year 3.9% growth — 4th — 2000 0.1% decrease — 8th — 2001 2.4% growth — 6th — 2002 1.6% growth — 5th — 2003 2.8% growth — 2nd — 2004	Target Exceeded. B.C. experienced robust real GDP growth in 2004 — among the highest for all provinces — demonstrating business and consumer confidence in the economy. Population growth in B.C. was higher than in Saskatchewan for 2004. This resulted in B.C. ranking second among the provinces, behind Saskatchewan, in terms of annual growth in real GDP per capita in 2004.
Real GDP per hour worked in the business sector indicates overall efficiency of our labour efforts.	This indicator measures overall efficiency of our labour efforts. For every hour of labour in B.C., workers produce a given amount of GDP. If productivity fails to increase, then a jurisdiction's living standards will eventually decline. Growth in labour productivity is critical to improving not only standard of living but also the income levels of citizens and public services available.	Target: Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 4th place in Canada. Latest Result[4] — Rank — Year $29.80 — 5th — 2000 $31.30 — 4th — 2001[5] $31.80 — 4th — 2002 $31.55 — 5th — 2003 $31.40 — 6th — 2004	Target not Achieved. B.C. currently ranks 6th in Canada. Employment grew strongly in B.C. for 2004, and the business sector in particular saw an increase of 5.2 per cent in hours worked. Real GDP in the business sector also posted robust growth in 2004 of 4.8 per cent. As a result of hours worked growing faster than real GDP in the business sector, labour productivity in British Columbia decreased slightly in 2004. B.C.'s productivity is expected to improve in the years ahead as the economy continues to diversify into new areas and
Total amount of gross fixed business investment as a percentage of provincial GDP.	This indicator reflects how much the business sector spends on machinery and equipment as well as building, engineering and residential house construction. It is an important contributing factor to long-term economic growth and higher productivity. By investing in machinery and equipment, businesses are generally more competitive, resulting in income growth and wealth creation.	Target: Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 5th place in Canada. Latest Result[3] — Rank — Year 16.2% — 7th — 2000 17.4% — 5th — 2001 17.2% — 5th — 2002 18.0% — 5th — 2003 19.3% — 3rd — 2004	Target Exceeded. This indicator has been improving as business and consumer confidence in the economy has rebounded. In 2004, this indicator experienced strong growth, reflecting increases in machinery and equipment as well as residential investment. At 19.3 per cent, the 2004 result is the highest since 1981.

[3] The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.
[4] Real GDP per hours worked in the business sector has been revised to reflect a slight change in the definition of this measure. Construction of this measure had to be adjusted due to data availability from Statistics Canada.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employment growth is a key indicator of a robust and improving economy. For the majority of British Columbians, employment is their primary source of income, enabling them to participate fully in their community.

British Columbia ranked fifth among provinces in 2004, in the percentage of the population aged 15 to 64 who are employed. Employment growth outpaced population growth, resulting in an increase in the employment rate for the 15 to 64 age group.

British Columbia has also done well in creating new jobs. We ranked fifth among provinces in the percentage growth in net new jobs in December 2004 relative to December 2003, with the creation of 32,400 net new jobs. Employment growth in 2004 was 2.3 per cent, third highest in the country. Job growth continues to be strong in 2005. Overall, since December 2001, British Columbia has had the highest rate of job growth of any province in Canada

Real personal disposable income per capita is a further indicator of economic performance, incorporating wage rates and other sources of incomes as well as employment. In 2004, real personal disposable income per capita in British Columbia rose to $20,002 per person. The province ranked third among provinces behind only Alberta and Ontario on this measure. Having more disposable income means that families in British Columbia have more lifestyle choices and more say in how they wish to participate in their communities.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The employment to population ratio of individuals aged 15 to 64.	The percentage of all persons aged 15 to 64 who are employed is an indicator of how the available labour is being utilized. A vibrant economy requires a pool of available workers. The measure provides information on the active participation of working age citizens in the economy to provide this pool.	Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 5th place in Canada. Latest Result[1] / Rank / Year 70.1% / 5th / 2000 68.9% / 5th / 2001 69.2% / 7th / 2002 70.2% / 6th / 2003 70.9% / 5th / 2004	Results Maintained. British Columbia has maintained its baseline ranking of fifth among provinces. Employment growth has been robust since 2001, outpacing population growth in the 15 to 64 age group and resulting in an increase in the employment rate.
Net new jobs in British Columbia.	New job creation is an important measure of economic activity and of a vibrant economy. The net new jobs indicator measures year-over-year (December) growth in employment.	Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 9th place growth in Canada in year over year job growth for December. Latest Result[1] / Rank / Year 1.4% / 6th / 2000 2.6% / 9th / 2001 4.4% / 3rd / 2002 4.1% / 1st / 2003 1.6% / 5th / 2004	Target Exceeded. After two years of robust job growth in B.C. (December to December), 2004 saw a slower pace of job creation. This resulted in a fifth place ranking among provinces for employment growth in 2004 relative to 2003. This is still an improvement on the baseline target set in 2001 of a ninth place ranking in year over year December employment growth. Job growth continues to be strong in 2005.
Real personal disposable income per capita.	This indicator represents total personal income minus taxes paid (to all levels of government, such as, income taxes, property taxes, contributions to social security, etc.) and various fees paid (e.g., medical insurance premiums), expressed on a per person basis. Growth in real personal disposable income provides an indication of how much money people actually have to spend.	Improve upon the 2001 level of 3rd place in Canada. Latest Result / Rank / Year $19,459 / 3rd / 2000 $19,630 / 3rd / 2001 $19,690 / 3rd / 2002 $19,758 / 3rd / 2003 $20,002 / 3rd / 2004	Results Maintained. B.C. maintained its third place ranking among provinces. The level of real personal income per capita continues to increase relative to the previous year of $19,758 per person, reaching $20,002 per person in 2004. In 2004, Alberta ranked first at $23,480 followed by Ontario at $21,649.

[1] The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.

D. GOVERNMENT WILL BE AFFORDABLE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

British Columbia is a leader in enhancing transparency and openness in its budgets and public reports. The Government remains committed to responsible fiscal management, reinforcing this commitment through the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*. This Act requires balanced budgets beginning in 2004/05 and applies salary penalties to Ministers who overspend their annual budgets.

Government achieved its fiscal plan target to balance the budget in 2004/05. For the 2004/05 fiscal year, the surplus was a record $2,575 million, $2,475 million ahead of the targeted budget surplus of $100 million, making 2004/05 the fourth year in a row in which government has exceeded its targeted budget results. Government's financial results for the fiscal year were prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles, and were endorsed without qualification by the Auditor General.

In *Budget 2005*, government tabled an update to its fiscal plan in the Legislature. The updated plan, to 2007/08, forecasts balanced budgets in each year. Based on current economic and revenue forecasts, and including a $400 million forecast allowance in 2005/06 for unexpected negative developments, the current fiscal plan forecasts a $220 million surplus in 2005/06, followed by surpluses of $200 million in both 2006/07 and 2007/08. As the fiscal plan in *Budget 2005* was not passed by the Legislature due to the intervening election, government intends to table an updated fiscal plan and estimates in the Legislature in September 2005.

Government continues to reduce the level of provincial government expenditure as a percentage of GDP. Building a stronger economy and managing expenditures responsibly have both worked to reduce the expenditure to GDP ratio. In addition, taxpayer-supported debt was 18.3 per cent of GDP in 2004/05, lower than both the forecast of 21.8 per cent in *Budget 2004* and the actual result of 20.6 per cent in 2003/04.

As a reflection of government's continued sound fiscal management, all three major credit rating agencies have upgraded the province's credit rating. Government has successfully met its budget targets for each of the last three years and the economy is now gathering momentum. Total provincial debt at the end of 2004/05 was $1,941 million less than recorded in 2003/04, the largest annual debt reduction in B.C.'s history. These actions allow government to focus spending on its priorities, including protecting and enhancing funding for health and education.

D. GOVERNMENT WILL BE AFFORDABLE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
Balance the provincial government budget.	Government spending that does not exceed annual revenues results in a balanced provincial budget. Under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, the government in British Columbia is required, by law, to balance the budget every year beginning in 2004/05. A balanced budget means that government spending does not exceed annual revenues.	Balanced annually beginning in 2004/05. Latest Result — Year Ahead of target (Deficit reduced to $2.7 billion) — 2002/03 Ahead of target (Deficit reduced to $1.3 billion) — 2003/04 Sizeable surplus exceeding initial target of $100 million by $2.5 billion — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. Government's plan to balance the budget in 2004/05 received major boosts due to robust economic performance and increased federal transfers. These factors enabled a reduction in the provincial sales tax rate and acceleration of key commitments, such as infrastructure grants to local governments, funding for the forest revitalization initiative, acceleration of grants for Olympic venues and funding for other sports, arts and culture organizations, while still recording a record provincial surplus.
Taxpayer-supported debt in relation to the size of the GDP.	Taxpayer-supported debt includes debt incurred by government and taxpayer-supported Crown corporations. Governments can incur debt for capital infrastructure (e.g., highways and buildings) or for ongoing operations (e.g., when provincial budgets are not balanced). Keeping taxpayer debt low is important because the amount of debt is one indication of a jurisdiction's attractiveness for business investment. High debt levels limit government's ability to fund services. A falling debt to GDP ratio means government has more resources to spend on public services rather than on debt servicing.	Annually reduce the province's taxpayer supported debt to GDP ratio once a balanced budget is achieved in 2004/05. Latest Result — Year (21.3%) — 2002/03 (20.6%) — 2003/04 (18.3%) — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. The decline in the debt-to-GDP ratio exceeded Budget 2004 projections due to a $1.4 billion pay down of taxpayer-supported debt and the impact of the robust economic performance on provincial GDP.
Provincial government expenditure as a percentage of GDP.	Keeping track of government expenditures as a proportion of GDP is important because it gives an indication of the relative size of the government sector. A vibrant economy balances publicly supported services with competitive, industry supported programs and services.	Reduce the level of provincial government expenditure from the restated 2001/02 baseline of 22.9 per cent of GDP. Latest Result[5] — Year 21.7% — 2000/01 22.9% — 2001/02 22.0% — 2002/03 20.8% — 2003/04 19.6% — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. Economic growth continues to outpace increases in government spending, despite major increases to health care and education funding.

[5] Percentages have been restated to reflect current accounting policies and Statistics Canada GDP revisions

STRATEGY: INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Work with the private sector to remove barriers to economic activity.	**Small Business and Economic Development**; All Ministries	**ON TRACK**: Government implemented a multi-pronged approach to removing barriers to economic activity including: • Promoting the "On the Ground" program that pursues economic development initiatives in the regions, and the Fast-Track process that works to expedite eligible projects; • Increasing venture capital available for business growth (600 per cent in 2004/05); • Reducing provincial sales tax from 7.5 per cent to 7.0 per cent; • Increasing the small business provincial corporate income tax threshold to $400,000 from $300,000; and • Targeting initiatives to support the entry of new immigrants to B.C. into the labour market (e.g., the on-line Employers Resource Guide and support for a national employers survey).
Implement a long-term economic development strategy for all regions of the province.	**Small Business and Economic Development**	**ON TRACK**: Strategies were undertaken to further economic development in all regions of the province, including: • Investing in key infrastructure through the $800 million Canada/BC Infrastructure Program, the $66 million Community Development Initiative and the $20 million Olympic/Paralympic Live Sites Program; • Funding, through the Western Economic Partnership Agreement, economic development initiatives that recognize sectoral regional needs. This includes funding for 45 projects representing nearly $17 million in joint federal/provincial commitments; • Creating the 2010 Commerce Centre to assist B.C. businesses to take advantage of opportunities that arise from the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games; • Implementing the Spirit of 2010 Tourism Strategy[7] and B.C. Resort Strategy and Action Plan: Best Practices[8]; and • Completing the B.C. Ports Strategy and related multi-modal action plan for capacity expansion in British Columbia's ports system.
Maintain a competitive tax regime	**Finance**	**ON TRACK**: In 2004, B.C. had the lowest personal income tax rates in Canada for the bottom two tax brackets and the second lowest top marginal personal income tax rate in Canada.
Market British Columbia's competitive advantages and opportunities as an investment location, tourism destination and trading partner.	**Small Business and Economic Development**	**ON TRACK**: Government increased international tourism marketing by doubling to $50 million Tourism BC's[9] marketing budget. Government also provided $14 million to regional organizations to implement tourism marketing and gateway initiatives. Government participated in trade missions and key international events to market B.C.'s competitive advantages and investment, trade and tourism opportunities including: Bio 2004 with Leading Edge BC (San Francisco); the 2010 Business Summit (Vancouver); the Piemonte/Torino in-bound Business Mission (Italy); and the Canada Trade Mission to China.

[7] http://www.2010commercecentre.com/content/toolsResources/Olympic+Planning/
[8] http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/resortdev/best_practices.html
[9] http://www.tourismbc.com/

STRATEGY: INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Optimize the wealth-generating capacity of the provincial resource base.	Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Forests; Small Business and Economic Development; Sustainable Resource Management; Treaty Negotiations Office; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** Significant activity has occurred to optimize the wealth-generating capacity in British Columbia, including: • Securing federal commitment to Pacific fisheries renewal, which promotes a sustainable and efficient sector and facilitates treaty settlements; • Increasing energy and mineral production and investment in response to improved government policies and market conditions; • Implementing the Forest Revitalization Plan, along with a strong United States lumber market, which resulted in excellent performance in the forest sector in 2004/05; and • Cutting red tape to facilitate access to Crown resources, while maintaining high environmental standards and meeting the province's obligations towards First Nations.
Increase mining exploration and development activity.	**Energy and Mines**; Sustainable Resource Management; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ACHIEVED:** Mining exploration investment increased to an estimated $130 million in 2004/05, up from $29 million in 2001/02. In 2004/05, 14 proposed mine projects were in the Environmental Assessment Process, as compared to one in 2001/02.
Conclude treaty and other economic-related agreements with First Nations that promote investment certainty and increase access to Crown land and resources	**Treaty Negotiations Office**; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Forests; Sustainable Resource Management; Transportation; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** Government signed almost 90 agreements that enabled resource development, transportation initiatives, and business and tourism opportunities throughout the province, in partnership with First Nations.
Create partnerships, alliances and investment opportunities that expand British Columbia's technology industries.	**Small Business and Economic Development**	**ON TRACK:** Leading Edge BC [10] is an organization that is dedicated to the promotion of B.C. as a technology destination and has successfully pursued partnerships and alliances that lead to an expansion of B.C.'s technology industries. A new BC Innovation Council [11] has been established to centralize government's technology development and commercialization programs, where British Columbia's research is incorporated into innovative products ready for the international market.
Make the Workers' Compensation Board responsive to workers and employers.	**Skills Development and Labour**	**ON TRACK:** Amendments were made to the Workers Compensation Act to provide clarity and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the workers' compensation system. Government continues to ensure that the Workers' Compensation Board is responsive to workers and employers.
Maximize federal contributions to research, building capacity for British Columbia to be an international leader in the research and innovation essential for economic growth.	**Advanced Education**; Health Services	**ON TRACK:** Significant progress was achieved towards making British Columbia a leader in research and innovation, including: • Supporting research infrastructure at British Columbian public post-secondary institutions by contributing 40 per cent towards the cost of research projects, matched primarily with federal funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). In 2004/05, the province contributed almost $87 million for research projects, and leveraged almost $85 million from CFI and other partners; and • Receiving approval for 65 new health research grants, valued at $20.5 million, from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research — Canada's major federal funding agency for health research. These grants focus on the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened health care system.

[10] http://www.leadingedgebc.ca
[11] http://www.scbc.org/

STRATEGY: INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS

Expand partnerships with the federal government to promote economic growth and development in British Columbia.	**Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat**; All Ministries	**ON TRACK:** Progress on this long-term strategy includes securing commitments from the Government of Canada, such as:
		• A 10-year health plan with all provinces and territories, providing for increased funding for health care of $41.3 billion nationally, of which $5.4 billion will come to British Columbia;
		• A range of initiatives to strengthen B.C.'s and Canada's relations with the Asia Pacific, including:
		  • A $50 million endowment to the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada to continue its work to build networks between Canadian and Asian business leaders, and to develop potential market opportunities that will benefit Canada and Asia;
		  • Pressing the federal government to negotiate approved destination status with China as well as a Canada-China bilateral air agreement;
		  • Pressing the federal government to reduce air port rents, which was approved early in 2005/06;
		  • An agreement to increase the Port of Vancouver borrowing limit to allow the port to expand, and a commitment to negotiate an agreement that gives Canada approved destination status for tourists from China;
		  • A recent $30 million commitment to match the $30 million provincial contribution to create a container terminal at the Port of Prince Rupert; and
		  • An announcement to relocate the Canadian Tourism Commission headquarters to Vancouver.
		• An additional $150 million of federal funding for the Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Rapid Transit Project;
		• An additional $100 million to fight the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation;
		• An $11 million contribution from the federal Opportunities Envelope fund to promote energy efficiency in buildings;
		• A new five-year Agreement on Canada-B.C. Cooperation on Immigration to support settlement and language training in B.C. and to facilitate the immigration of skilled workers, business people and international students;
		• A partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Western Economic Diversification to implement several pilot projects aimed at encouraging economic development, strengthening regional immigration and increasing the capacities of communities to support immigrant settlement outside of the Lower Mainland; and
		• A 50/50 cost shared provincial and federal contribution totalling $84 million was allocated toward the second phase of the Affordable Housing Agreement with the federal government.

STRATEGY: INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Improve key transportation infrastructure, including international gateways, to support economic growth, investment and trade.	**Transportation**	**ON TRACK:** Approximately 500 transportation improvement projects with a combined value of over $600 million were initiated. Benefits from the $1 billion BC Rail Investment Partnership with Canadian National (CN) included: announcement of new passenger train services from North Vancouver to Whistler and from Whistler to Jasper, to be operational in 2006; a $15 million (now $30 million) commitment by CN to help open up the Port of Prince Rupert; commencement of a non-stop Chicago Express rail service from Prince George and construction of a $1 million state-of-the-art wheel shop; establishment of the $135 million Northern Development Initiative Trust headquarters in Prince George; and establishment of the $15 million First Nations Benefits Trust. The province committed an additional $17.2 million (now $30 million) to the Port of Prince Rupert and $4 million for expansion of the Prince George Airport.
Ensure British Columbia has the skilled workforce to support economic growth.	**Skills Development and Labour**; Advanced Education; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Education; Health Services; Human Resources; Public Sector Employers' Council; Small Business and Economic Development	**ON TRACK:** Government focused on some of the key sectors identified in the Human Resource Strategy, released in May 2004, ensuring that industry groups consider balanced approaches to solving labour market problems. For instance, government worked with the Agricultural Labour Partnership Committee to secure Agri-Food Canada resources to address human resource challenges in agriculture. Government is increasing post-secondary capacity throughout the province through the addition of 25,000 post-secondary seats by 2010. Through the Industry Training Authority [12], the number of trainees has increased by 17 per cent. Through the Industry Training Authority's ACE IT initiative, students are encouraged to register in industry training programs while still in secondary school, allowing students to earn graduation or apprenticeship credits. Government continues to monitor and report annually the number of students enrolled in apprenticeship programs. Government also created the Tourism and Hospitality Education and Training Consortium, to ensure that the industry's requirements are met by 2010. Through the federal-provincial Western Economic Partnership Agreement, the province helped establish a new Kelowna aerospace training facility. BC Skills Connect for Immigrants was developed to assist immigrants entering the labour market. Expansion of the B.C. Provincial Nomination Program [13] increased the numbers of skilled and business immigrants settling in British Columbia.
Develop fair and balanced employment standards that allow mutually beneficial relationships between employees and employers.	**Skills Development and Labour**	**ON TRACK:** Commenced sector specific initiatives to enhance the prevention and education component of government's employment standards operations. These initiatives enhance liaison and communication with a range of industries in British Columbia, including those with some of the province's most vulnerable workers; including those workers with lower incomes, fewer transferable job skills, English language challenges, part time work, lower literacy, and being new to the country. By focusing on specific sectors such as agriculture and the garment industry, government is proactive in initiating investigations in areas where workers may not be aware of their rights and also in promoting increased understanding of employers' and employees' rights and obligations under the *Employment Standards Act*.

[12] http://www.itabc.ca/
[13] http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/amip/pnp/index.htm

STRATEGY: MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Promote and sustain a renewed professional public service.	**Management Services**; All Ministries	**ON TRACK:** The B.C. Public Service Agency [14] supports the implementation of ministry human resource plans through the provision of programs, tools and advice and through such initiatives as the Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards, performance management, succession planning and leadership training and development.
All ministries will meet their budget and service plan targets.	**Finance**; All Ministries	**ACHIEVED:** Government far exceeded its balanced budget target with a record $2.6 billion surplus, and is on track to meet its target of balanced budgets for future years. Three credit/bond rating services [15] upgraded their credit ratings for the province, citing the province's sound fiscal management, reduced debt burden and transparent financial reporting.
Continue to streamline government's legislation and regulations.	**Small Business and Economic Development**; All Ministries	**ACHIEVED:** Government has surpassed its commitment to reduce the regulatory burden by one-third in three years. Government will continue to modernize the regulatory system to improve B.C.'s competitiveness and encourage prosperity, innovation and opportunity, while protecting public health and safety, consumers and the environment.
Promote new and more effective ways to deliver services and infrastructure through alternative service delivery (ASD) and partnership arrangements.	**Management Services**; Finance; All Ministries	**ON TRACK:** Government signed five ASD contracts valued at $1 billion over the next 10 years for a variety of business process outsourcing and information technology projects. Benefits are expected to reach nearly $500 million over the life of the contracts. The ASD Secretariat continues to work with ministries and the private sector to design and implement new service delivery solutions. In addition, the following significant public private partnership projects reached agreement: • The new Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre, which will be the most modern and technologically advanced in Canada; • The Academic Ambulatory Care Centre at the Vancouver General Hospital, to coordinate outpatient care services at one site; • The Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant, to clean up polluted water from a former mine site; and • The 188 kilometre Sierra Yoyo Desan Resource Road, upgraded at no cost to taxpayers, to support oil and gas exploration and production in the area northeast of Fort Nelson.
Expand public access to government through e-government initiatives.	**Management Services**; All Ministries	**ON TRACK:** Government has signed two agreements with TELUS to bring affordable high-speed Internet access to 366 communities by December 31, 2006 and to improve the telecommunications capacity and services to the provincial government and the broader public sector. These agreements will generate financial benefits of $54 million over four years. The benefits will be achieved through the extension of existing contracts and through incentives for transitioning from legacy to next generation technologies that support new e-government services.
Continue to expand one-stop permitting and licensing in key sectors	**Management Services**; Finance; All Ministries	**ON TRACK:** Continued expansion of the OneStop Business Registry [16] has allowed businesses to interact more efficiently with all levels of government. Service BC continues to move forward on integration of service channels to ensure that customers have convenient access to high-quality seamless services.

[14] http://www.bcpublicservice.ca/index.htm
[15] The three rating services were Standard and Poor's, Moody's Investor Services and Dominion Bond Rating Service.
[16] http://www.onestopbc.ca/

STRATEGY: MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Reform the province's Crown corporations to focus on efficient and effective service delivery.	**Crown Agencies Secretariat**	**ON TRACK:** Government has strengthened the accountability framework for Crown agencies to support more effective service delivery consistent with government's priorities. Recognized in Canada as a best practice, this enhanced accountability includes Shareholder's Letters of Expectations for all commercial Crown corporations and ten taxpayer supported Crown agencies. These website accessible letters set out a high-level agreement between the shareholder and the Boards of Directors covering a wide range of accountability issues. Crown corporations are implementing government's changes to their mandates and service delivery methods. Crown corporations are subject to the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requirement to produce a service plan and annual service plan report consistent with Shareholder's Letters of Expectations and government's strategic and fiscal plan.
Increase recoveries of revenues owed to government and streamline accounts receivable collections.	**Provincial Revenue**	**ON TRACK:** Targets for revenue recovery and collection of overdue accounts receivable were exceeded in 2004/05. Negotiations with a private sector partner were successfully concluded and government has entered into an alliance to leverage private sector expertise, technology and investment capital to improve a wide spectrum of provincial revenue management processes.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY MEASURES

GOAL: A SUPPORTIVE SOCIAL FABRIC

The foundation for growth and opportunity is now in place. A strong and supportive social fabric depends upon a vibrant economy. Our economy thrives when there is a skilled and healthy workforce, when families can make choices about their health care and their education, and when the social welfare systems are available for those truly in need. Government has worked with partners to build and sustain a high-performing health, education and social welfare system. We have worked to ensure our justice system is accessible, efficient, fair and affordable. The measures and strategies reported here indicate our work is paying off and citizens have access to services that meet the highest standard of quality and timeliness.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE HEALTHY

Nothing is more important to the quality of living and lifestyle in British Columbia than our health. British Columbians are among the healthiest people in Canada. Government has made it a priority to support their healthy lifestyles while providing support to those in the population that do not enjoy good health or are at risk of diminishing health. Government strategic actions to build a robust economy and deliver quality education, health and social services across the province all contribute to British Columbians maintaining and improving their health.

Premature deaths, as measured by Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL), continue to decline steadily in this province. Every death occurring to a person younger than the age of 75 is considered a premature death and results in potential years of life lost. Significant improvements have been made in postponing the number of deaths, with particular success in reducing early deaths from heart disease and unintentional injuries. Government is continuing to work to reduce premature deaths and has introduced the *ActNow BC* program to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent disease by promoting physical activity, healthy eating, living tobacco-free, and making healthy choices during pregnancy.

Low birth weight is another key indicator of health. While small variations occur year to year, the rate of low birth weight babies in British Columbia has remained largely constant over the past 15 years. The slightly increasing rate of low birth weight babies over the last couple of years is likely attributable to the higher proportion of older mothers giving birth. Older mothers (age 35+) now account for one out of five births in British Columbia, and account for one out of four low birth weight live births.

Poverty, low education levels and smoking during pregnancy can also impact birth weights. Government is committed to maintaining a minimal rate of low birth weight babies in British Columbia. We will continue to design and deliver programs that support those most in need, encourage healthy living, and promote making healthy choices during pregnancy to help babies get a healthy start to their lives.

Infant mortality rates are another key indicator of overall health status. Since 1990, the infant mortality rate for the Aboriginal (Status Indian) population in the province decreased significantly. Over the past decade the gap between infant mortality rates in the Aboriginal population and the total B.C. population has been significantly reduced to the point that the difference is no longer statistically significant. This is a vast improvement over the mid-1990's when the Aboriginal infant mortality rate was over double the provincial rate.

Like the general population, Aboriginal health status is primarily influenced by social and economic conditions. The trend in infant mortality is very encouraging, and government is committed to continuing to engage Aboriginal communities to ensure they have access to the services and information needed to continue to improve their overall health status.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE HEALTHY

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The rate of potential years of life lost per 1,000 population from all causes of premature death.	Potential years of life lost (PYLL) measures the number of years lost when a person dies before the age of 75. It is given as a rate per 1,000 so that fluctuations in the population of the province do not artificially affect the result. A low PYLL rate indicates a low degree of premature mortality. It also conveys the overall health of the population as well as an indication of the effectiveness of preventive programs.	Decrease the potential years of life lost from the 1995-2000 average of 51.2[17] per 1,000 population. Latest Result (5 year average) — Year 51.2 — 2000 49.2 — 2001 47.6 — 2002 46.3 — 2003 45.7 — 2004	Target Exceeded. This measure has showed consistent decline over the past four years, a trend that is consistent with several other provinces.
The percentage of all live births weighing below 2,500 grams.	This is a well-established indicator of child health. Newborns with a birth weight less than 2,500 grams are more likely to experience hospitalization and have learning difficulties. A high rate of babies born with low birth weight may indicate that some women are not receiving optimal prenatal care, education and support.	Decrease the percentage of all live births weighing below 2,500 grams from the 2000 baseline of 5.1 per cent. Latest Result — Year 5.1% — 2000 5.0% — 2001 5.3% — 2002 5.3% — 2003 5.6% — 2004	Target not Achieved. The increasing rate of low birth weight is likely attributable to the higher proportion of older mothers giving birth. Older mothers (age 35+) now account for one out of five births in British Columbia, and account for one out of four low birth weight live births. Poverty, low education levels and smoking during pregnancy can also impact birth weights. Government strategies to support those most in need, encourage healthy living, and promote making healthy choices during pregnancy will assist in keeping B.C.'s rate of low birth weight babies low.
The rate of status Indians who die in the first year of life.	This measure tracks the infant mortality rate for the general population and compares it with the rate experienced by the Aboriginal population. As a group, Aboriginal people experience a level of health below that experienced by the general population. This measure serves as an indicator of the overall health status of the Aboriginal populations.	The rate of infant mortality among the status Indian population is not statistically different to that of the general population of British Columbia. Latest Result (5 year average) — Year 6.4 : 4.1 — 2000 5.2 : 3.9 — 2001 4.4 : 4.0 — 2002	Data not available. Pending agreement with the federal government for the status Indians verification file.

[17] The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE EDUCATED

A strong and vibrant economy depends upon an educated, skilled workforce. In general, educated workers are more adaptable to shifting technological advances and better able to meet the demands for innovation of a modern economy. Skilled workers command a higher wage, which in turn expands the province's tax base and stimulates economic growth. An educated and skilled workforce is an asset. It helps to attract investment to B.C., which increases B.C.'s competitive position in the world.

The proportion of the prime working age population with a university degree provides one key indication of our province's pool of highly skilled workers. In 2004, the percentage of the population aged 25 to 54 with a university education was 22.6 per cent, down slightly from the 2003 results. Overall the measure has continued an upward trend since 1990. In both 2003 and 2004, British Columbia ranked second among all provinces in this measure, with Ontario ranking first. The government will continue to implement programs aimed at improving access to degree level programs throughout the province. Recent examples include the establishment of the new universities in Kamloops and Kelowna Thompson Rivers University, UBC Okanagan and the new Okanagan College.

While a university degree is undeniably important, the academic route for credentials is not right for everyone. Equally important to B.C.'s economy are skilled trades workers. The number of students enrolled in industry training programs is an important indicator of how well government is doing in encouraging students to consider a career in the trades sector. With steady increases in student enrolment in apprenticeship programs we are on the way to ensuring that B.C. will have a diverse, adaptable workforce ready to meet the demands of a changing economy.

Successful completion of secondary school is also an important pre-requisite of future quality of life. Secondary school graduates are almost twice as likely to be gainfully employed as those who do not finish secondary school. Wages and salaries of secondary school graduates are generally substantially higher than those of non-graduates. Given the importance of secondary school graduation in determining students' prospects later in life, the proportion of students who graduate from secondary school is an important measure of the overall performance of our Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system. The completion rate of secondary school graduates remained stable for the 2003/04 school year, at a record 79 per cent, up from 76 per cent in 2000/01. For Aboriginal students, the trend is encouraging — the completion rate has increased 5 per cent since 2001.

British Columbia's effective education system is reflected by our strong standing on international assessment measures. According to results from the 2003 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), B.C. students are among the best in the world in math, reading and science. No country or province outperformed B.C. in math or reading, and only Finland and Japan outperformed B.C. in science. At the provincial level, the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) measures students' ability to meet provincial standards in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in Grades 4 and 7. The trend data for FSA shows continued improvement since 2001.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE EDUCATED

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The percentage of the population aged 25 to 54, who have completed a university education.	This measure identifies the proportion of the prime working age population with higher education. A well educated workforce attracts investment and jobs, raises productivity, and improves workforce income. A knowledgeable and skilled workforce also helps B.C.'s industries maintain a competitive edge in today's global economy.	Improve upon the 2001 baseline rank of 4th place in Canada. Latest Result: 21.0% — Rank: 2nd — Year: 2000 20.3% — 4th — 2001 21.6% — 2nd — 2002 23.2% — 2nd — 2003 22.6% — 2nd — 2004	Target Exceeded. Results for 2004 (22.6%) were higher than the baseline (20.3%). The measure reflects the number of degrees granted in B.C., and the number of persons with university degrees gained through inter-provincial and international net migration. Although there have been year-over-year fluctuations, this measure has been on an upward trend since 1990.
The percentage of students who start Grade 8 and graduate from Grade 12 within six years.	Graduating Grade 12 within six years of starting Grade 8 includes many young people who graduate high-school through non-traditional means. High school completion, whether through the public school system or through a community college, is a basic requirement for entry to the workforce or to higher education. Young people who have graduated high school are better equipped for employment or for advanced education.	Annual improvement from the 2000/01 baseline of 76 per cent. Latest Result: 76% — Year: 2000/01 77% — 2001/02 79% — 2002/03 79% — 2003/04	Target Exceeded. School completion rates are a key measure of the success of our education system. They provide tangible evidence that a student has succeeded in the K-12 education system, and because it acts as a passport to either post-secondary education or the job market, they provide a good indication of later life success.
The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in Grade 4 reading is an early success indicator.	Expectations for Grade 4 students include ability to retrieve information, recognize meaning, and interpret and analyze texts. Measuring the ability of Grade 4 students to meet or exceed expectations at their grade level is key to being able to predict early success in the education system.	Annual improvement from the 2000/01 baseline of 78 per cent. Latest Result: 78% — Year: 2000/01 80% — 2001/02 77% — 2002/03 80% — 2003/04	Target Exceeded. The data gathered from the Foundation Skills Assessment provides a look at performance on a broad scale and allows a focused response at the individual school level, the district level or the provincial level. FSA is a standardized measure, designed by BC teachers to reflect the BC education system's curriculum. Current results indicate students in grade 4 are learning in B.C.'s educational system.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A FAIR AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

British Columbians expect to have access to an independent, fair and efficient justice system. The timeliness of criminal court procedures is one indicator of the accessibility of our justice system. We have already taken the lead in the prosecution of highly complex criminal cases by pioneering new technology and creating new case management techniques. Most large criminal cases require many court appearances to consider all relevant legal issues and technical evidence involved. This increases the court resources needed to process and resolve these complicated criminal cases and accounts for the observed increase in time to disposition. At the same time we have introduced novel and affordable out-of-court alternatives for resolving some family and civil disputes. Less complex cases and traffic offenses are being processed faster and with fewer court appearances, and a growing number of simpler cases are being resolved through out-of-court alternatives. When cases are resolved out of court, court resources can be used more efficiently where they are required.

Small claims settlement rates are dependent on a number of factors, including the complexity of cases and the number of experienced mediators who provide mediation services. The settlement rate may fluctuate with staff turnover. Program administrators have designed individual training plans for new mediators, and this initiative may help to stabilize the settlement rate. A program review will be conducted to identify other factors that are contributing to changes in the settlement rate. We will continue to work with our justice partners to ensure an efficient justice system.

Government will continue to support out-of-court mediation policies and services. For instance, a Notice to Mediate process to compel the other party or parties to mediate civil suits between $10,000 and $25,000 will be available to parties in 2005/06. Government will continue to support and fund high-quality training for mediators, a strategy that also increases the number of qualified mediators available for small claims cases.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A FAIR AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The proportion of small claims cases settled through out-of-court mediation in the Court Mediation program.	Settlement rate for this measure is the number of cases settled at mediation, plus the number settled before mediation begins, divided by the total number of mediations held. Cases settled before mediation begins are also included in the calculation based on the assumption that mediation referrals encourage and contribute to private settlement.	Improve upon the 2000/01 baseline of 56 per cent. Latest Result — Year 56% — 2000/01 57% — 2001/02 50% — 2002/03 56% — 2003/04 52% — 2004/05	Target not Achieved. The change in the settlement rate for 2004/05 can be attributed to some highly experienced mediators leaving the roster to pursue other career options, while at the same time, new mediators were entering. The settlement rate is expected to increase as the new mediators become more experienced.
The proportion of adult offenders who do not re-offend for two years following corrections supervision.	This measure is used to indicate the overall effectiveness of the justice system in deterring and rehabilitating adult offenders.	Increase the proportion of adult offenders who do not re-offend from the 2001/02 baseline of 69 per cent. Latest Result — Year 70% — 2000/01 69% — 2001/02 70% — 2002/03 70% — 2003/04 71% — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. Correctional research has confirmed that providing programs that target dynamic risk factors among higher-risk offenders can reduce re-offending behaviour.
The median number of days to disposition from first appearance for criminal cases (represents all criminal and quasi-criminal matters and related applications, including those that enter the system, but do not proceed to trial).	This measure tracks the median time required to process all documents related to court events in criminal cases. A decrease in the median would mean that overall, criminal cases are requiring less time to process. An increase in the median would mean that criminal cases are requiring more time to process. The nature of the case influences the amount of time needed for processing.	Reduce the median number of days to disposition from 2000/01 baseline of 46 days. Latest Result — Year 46 days — 2000/01 42 days — 2001/02 44 days — 2002/03 51 days — 2003/04 56 days — 2004/05	Target not Achieved. The results for 2004/05 reflect an increasing proportion of high-risk, complicated criminal cases entering the court system, while lower-risk cases are diverted to out-of-court alternatives without entering the system. Complex criminal cases require many court appearances to consider the range of legal issues and technical evidence involved. This means that large volumes of documents must be processed. In contrast, lower-risk cases require fewer, or no, court resources. If the low-risk cases that are now resolved out of court had been included in the calculation of this measure as they were in past years, there would have been a reduction in the median number of days to disposition and the target would have been met.

D. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

Self-sufficiency is an important indicator of community and individual health and well-being. Government has a responsibility to support individuals and families in achieving their social and economic potential. As part of this responsibility, government provides income support to those in need and helps people find sustainable employment. Jurisdictions around the world have been exploring ways to reduce dependence on income assistance for those able to work, while at the same time ensuring support is provided to those most in need.

Government gauges its success in achieving this goal by measuring income assistance dependence for the total population and for those capable of financial independence through employment. During fiscal year 2004/05, 3.6 per cent of the provincial population was on income assistance, down from 4.1 per cent in 2003/04. Government has achieved its target of reducing the percentage of persons who are receiving income assistance but are capable of financial independence to 55 per cent from the 2001/02 baseline of 76 per cent. It is difficult to make inter-provincial comparisons of income assistance because programs differ by province.

D. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The percentage of British Columbia's population receiving income assistance.	This indicator measures the percentage of British Columbia's population who receive income assistance. A lower percentage of the population receiving income assistance implies sound policy and a stronger economy with more people working and contributing. It also supports better outcomes for children. Children of working families are more likely to complete high school, participate in the labour market, and attain higher levels of education.	Reduce the percentage of the population receiving income assistance from the 2001/02 baseline of 6.2[18] per cent. Latest Result — Year 6.2% — 2000/01 6.0% — 2001/02 4.8% — 2002/03 4.1% — 2003/04 3.6% — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. The result has been on a steady decline since June 2001. The introduction of amendments to the existing legislation in April 2002 marked the beginning of a sharp decline in the income assistance caseload. The introduction of the *Employment and Assistance Act* and *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* in September 2002 continued this trend. More British Columbians have found alternatives to income assistance since June 2001.
The percentage of individuals receiving temporary income assistance who are capable of financial independence through employment.	Temporary assistance is a type of income assistance that is provided to clients who are expected to leave income assistance by finding work. This measure tracks changes in the ratio of temporary assistance recipients to the total number of individuals receiving income assistance. A lower percentage shows more people are leaving income assistance and fewer people who can work require income assistance. By reducing this number, government ensures that it is providing help to those most in need.	Reduce the percentage of persons receiving income assistance who are capable of financial independence through employment from the 2001/02 baseline of 76 per cent. Latest Result — Year 71% — 2000/01 76% — 2001/02 64% — 2002/03 52% — 2003/04 55%[19] — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. All temporary assistance clients have employment-related obligations, except for those who are not required to seek work (e.g., parents of a young child). A decline in this measure indicates that government has been successful in supporting those who can leave income assistance to work.
Aboriginal capacity building (measure under development).	Under development	Under development.	Under development. The Province is developing an Aboriginal Progress Reporting Framework, in partnership with B.C.'s four provincial political Aboriginal organizations (First Nations Summit, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, United Native Nations and Métis Provincial Council of B.C.) This Framework will include social and economic measures that are comparable to measures used for the general population and are also meaningful to Aboriginal people. One of the goals of the Provincial/Aboriginal working group is to clarify how best to define and measure capacity within Aboriginal organizations.

[18] The results have been updated to reflect revisions by statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.
[19] The calculation of this measure now includes the group of Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers to Employment.

STRATEGY: FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Facilitate a community-based approach to ensure access to high-quality and cost-effective health, education and social services.	Advanced Education; Children and Family Development; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Education; Health Services; Human Resources; Treaty Negotiations Office	**ON TRACK:** Government has demonstrated success in ensuring access to health, education and social services. Highlights for 2004/05 include: • Launching the School Community Connections[19] initiative, redefining schools as centres of the community by using underutilized facilities for services such as child care and seniors' centers; • Funding CommunityLINK[20] to support equitable distribution of community-based school programs; • Increasing capacity throughout the post-secondary system, establishing three new institutions (Thompson Rivers, UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College[21]) and expanding online learning to enhance students' ability to study in their home communities; • Providing, through regional health authorities, services that meet the needs of residents in their regions; • Ensuring clients ability to access a consistent level of income support province wide by telephone and electronic access and the use of community based employment programs; • Passing legislation enabling the establishment of Community Living BC authority[22]; • Implementing, through the Vancouver Agreement, community based addiction treatment services in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver; • Establishing a Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions, targeting the provision of a range of supports that help local governments meet the needs of vulnerable populations; and • Providing, through community-based agencies, services for women who have experienced abuse and their dependent children.
Increase flexibility and choice for kindergarten to grade 12 and post-secondary students.	Advanced Education; Education	**ON TRACK:** In the past year government launched a number of new initiatives and tools designed to increase flexibility and choice for students, including: • Encouraging School Boards to develop programs of choice. The results are shown at the Web-based School Choices[23] tool for kindergarten to grade 12 students and their parents. This provides easy access to information on the more than 5,000 specialty programs available in B.C. public schools; • Implementing the Industry Training Authority's ACE IT program encouraging more youth to register in industry training programs while still in secondary school; • Expanding online learning through BCcampus[24]; and • Expanding transfer opportunities with private degree granting institutions.
Provide greater choice of living options for Home and Community Care.	**Health Services**; Community Aboriginal and Women's Services	**ON TRACK:** Health authorities continue to expand home and community care options to meet the diverse needs of seniors and the disabled. Services include residential facility care, assisted living, adult day centres, home support, professional home care nursing, community rehabilitation services, end-of-life care, and hospice and caregiver relief.

[19] http://www.achievebc.ca/
[20] http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/communitylink/
[21] http://www.pas.bc.ca/
[22] http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/community_living/index.html
[23] http://www.achievebc.ca/choices/search_about.aspx
[24] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/speeches/bccampus_Apr_14_05.pdf

STRATEGY: FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Provide service, support and individualized funding options to children, youth, families and adults with developmental disabilities.	**Children and Family Development**; Education; Health Services; Human Resources	**ON TRACK**: Government provides a range of services and supports for persons with disabilities, including: • Providing income assistance to persons with disabilities and supplementary assistance to clients for medical, transportation and emergency needs; and • Offering direct funding to families of children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3,000 families as of March 2005) to purchase treatments and interventions to alleviate conditions of the disorder.
Facilitate access to justice through innovative dispute resolutions systems, integrated justice services and technological solutions	**Attorney General**; Children and Family Development; Public Safety and Solicitor General	**ON TRACK**: Government implemented several new initiatives to facilitate access to justice, including: • Changing regulations to increase the financial limit of cases heard in small claims court from $10,000 to $25,000; • Changing regulations to enable the use of "Notice to Mediate" procedures in all registries for civil suits between $10,000-$25,000 so that one party can compel other parties to participate in a mediation session; • Implementing the *Administrative Tribunals Act*, allowing administrative tribunals to operate more openly, effectively and with greater accessibility to persons they serve; • Implementing Court Services Online[25], an electronic search service that gives the justice community and the public computer access to civil case information; • Establishing the Civil Justice Reform Working Group with representatives from the judiciary, the legal profession and the government to find ways to increase litigants' access to the B.C. Supreme Court civil process; • Increasing province-wide child protection mediations[26] by 57 per cent. These mediations increase the capacity for families to settle child protection issues outside of the court process by bringing together all parties affected by a dispute to find a mutually agreeable solution; and • Increasing family group conferencing by 55 per cent. As an alternative to the court system, these conferences bring together a child's extended family and members of the community to develop a plan to address safety concerns pertaining to a child.
Support the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in assessing options for the electoral process in British Columbia.	**Attorney General**	**ACHIEVED**: In December 2004, the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform issued its report recommending a single transferable vote.

[25] http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/courts/cso/index.htm
[26] http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/mediation.htm

STRATEGY: ACCESS

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Promote the delivery of a consistent level and quality of education, health and social services throughout the province.	Advanced Education; Children and Family Development; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Education; Health Services; Human Resources	**ON TRACK:** Major initiatives that ensure quality and consistency of education, health and social services include: • Developing performance agreements and performance reporting for health authorities; • Providing income assistance and related services through regional and district offices, telephone and electronic access; • Ensuring new degree programs adhere to quality criteria through the Degree Quality Assurance Board[27]; • Upgrading school internet sites — under the PLN5 initiative, 370 low-speed and under-served school internet sites have been upgraded to high-speed, and the remaining 30 sites will be completed by June 2005; • Providing online opportunities for teachers' professional growth and student access to courses through a series of innovative webcasts; • Implementing the Graduation Program to enable the successful transition of students after graduation, into either post-secondary education or the workplace; and • Establishing the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues to enhance British Columbian seniors' independence and quality of life.
Expand degree opportunities offered by public, private and out-of-province institutions.	**Advanced Education**	**COMPLETED:** The Degree Quality Assessment Board[28] began reviewing and recommending approval of degree programs.
Enhance full-service family practice to ensure delivery of a consistent level and quality of coordinated medical and related services throughout the province.	**Health Services**	**ON TRACK:** Eight new primary health care organizations offering comprehensive primary care have been added across the province, with 10 more planned by health authorities in 2005/06. Through the 2004 working agreement with the British Columbia Medical Association, 30 Professional Quality Improvement Days involving approximately 800 physicians from across the province have been held to provide opportunities for doctors, the province and health authorities to work together to enhance primary care services.
Support a sustainable childcare system in which families can choose from a range of affordable, safe, quality childcare options that meet diverse needs.	**Children and Family Development**[29]; Health Services; Human Resources	**ON TRACK:** A number of enhancements to the childcare system were implemented, including expanding eligibility for the childcare subsidy program to serve more families, increasing the number of childcare spaces available in B.C. and increasing the subsidy rates for children under six in regulated care.

[27] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/board/welcome.htm
[28] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/board/welcome.htm
[29] Lead accountability changed from Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to Children and Family Development due to program transfer.

STRATEGY: ACCESS

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Ensure criminal cases move through the justice system in a timely and efficient manner.	**Attorney General; Public Safety and Solicitor General**	**ON TRACK:** Government took several actions to improve justice system efficiency, including: • Piloting the Litigation Management System to enhance prosecution processes such as disclosure, case preparation and evidence presentation; • Improving the JUSTIN/PRIME Interface Project, a joint effort with the police, that uses a single point for entry and transmission of police data from the PRIME records management system to JUSTIN, a case tracking system; • Initiating a backlog reduction effort in partnership with the Provincial Court judiciary, which has decreased the backlog at the Main Street courthouse in Vancouver; • Increasing the use of videoconferencing, reducing the need for prisoner escorts throughout the Lower Mainland; and • Developing new court performance standards and measures in collaboration with the Provincial Court.

[27] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/board/welcome.htm
[28] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/board/welcome.htm
[29] Lead accountability changed from Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to Children and Family Development due to program transfer.

STRATEGY: RESULTS-ORIENTED AND EVIDENCE-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Implement and manage performance-based accountability agreements for third party service providers including health, education and social services.	Advanced Education; Attorney General; Children and Family Development; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Education; Health Services; Human Resources.	**ON TRACK**: Under the Public Post Secondary Accountability Framework [30], post secondary institutions published their first service plans specifying standard performance measures and institutional targets. The government continues to monitor the public school system through accountability contracts between the Ministry of Education and all 60 school districts. Performance agreements are annually developed with each health authority defining expectations and measures for three fiscal years. The Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal [31] provides an open and fair process that ensures accountability for income assistance decisions. Accountability has been improved for third-party immigrant settlement service providers through a new process to award contracts. Services for women who have experienced abuse and their dependent children are delivered through performance-based contracts with community agencies.
Improve the prevention and management of selected chronic diseases.	**Health Services**	**ON TRACK**: Government is working with health authorities and physicians to help individuals maintain their health through prevention, early detection and management of chronic conditions. A number of initiatives have been implemented, including a secure, web-based Chronic Disease Management Toolkit that gives authorized doctors, nurses and other care providers access to tools and information incorporating proven best practices for the treatment and management of chronic diseases.

[30] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/accountability/welcome.htm
[31] http://www.gov.bc.ca/eaat/

STRATEGY: ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Ensure information is available to assist individuals in making informed decisions regarding their personal and community health, education, fitness, and safety.	Advanced Education; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Education; Health Services; Human Resources; Public Safety and Solicitor General; Water, Land and Air Protection.	**ON TRACK:** Numerous initiatives are under way to assist individuals including: • Achieve BC [32] provides electronic access to information on institutions, programs, transfer information, the application service, and other relevant information to support students making informed career and post secondary decisions; • *Action Schools! BC* [33], a physical activity program to help elementary students create action plans for healthy living; • *ActNow BC* [34], is designed to help individuals and communities protect and improve their health by focusing on five achievable goals for B.C.'s population by 2010: healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco use, obesity, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; • School Choices [35] a new resource for parents and students that provides access to online information about the diversity of K-12 school choices in the province; • Ready, Set, Learn [36] provides tools for the community, families and educators to help build the foundations of early literacy, so that from age three on, every child in B.C. is prepared for school; • The B.C. HealthGuide and NurseLine Program [37]; • Access to income and disability assistance policy and other information through government website. Child care subsidy and income assistance estimators [38] are available online. Principle brochures are available about income and disability assistance policy in 11 different languages; • Women's and Seniors' [39] websites to enhance access to information for women and seniors on provincial government programs and services; and, • Expanded toll free (1-800-465-4911) health information line includes information on government programs and services for seniors.

[32] http://www.achievebc.ca/
[33] http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/action_schools.html
[34] http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/actnow.html
[35] http://www.achievebc.ca/
[36] http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/rsl/
[37] http://www.bchealthguide.org
[38] http://www.childcareestimator.gov.bc.ca/
[39] http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/wss/index.htm

STRATEGY: ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Promote the development of supports and services within Aboriginal communities that address their unique social and economic conditions.	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**; Advanced Education; Children and Family Development; Education; Health Services; Human Resources; Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat; Treaty Negotiations Office.	**ON TRACK:** There has been significant progress over the past year in developing social supports and services and economic opportunities that are making a difference in the lives of Aboriginal families. Aboriginal communities are benefiting from improvements and expansion of childcare facilities. More Aboriginal community agencies have been delegated to provide for children in care. The secondary school completion rate for Aboriginal students is increasing and they have more opportunities to access post-secondary education. Other improvements include increased local capacity for community planning, greater information sharing, increased training and skills development, the creation and expansion of Aboriginal businesses, and continuing projects to preserve Aboriginal languages.
Encourage post-secondary institutions to be responsive to the needs of regional economies	**Advanced Education**	**ON TRACK:** Post secondary institutions have differentiated mandates, reflecting community and provincial needs. By working with employers and educators, student employability has improved and can meet labour market demand in such fields as aerospace, mining, oil and gas production, hospitality and tourism. Regional Innovation Chairs support research, development and innovation, institutional collaboration and bolster regional economic and social development in the college sector across the province. A student loan forgiveness program is in place for graduates who practice in under-served areas of B.C. in particular professions.
Improve outcomes for children under age six and their families by ensuring access to integrated early childhood development services and initiatives that build on existing community strengths and resources.	**Children and Family Development**; Health Services	**ON TRACK:** With community partners (United Way and credit unions), government established 18 Success By 6®[40] initiatives reaching 110 communities to increase awareness of early child development and to engage communities in planning for services. With the Human Early Learning Partnership, B.C. was the first province in Canada to have completed a baseline of school-readiness, profiling over 95 per cent of kindergarten children in British Columbia.

[40] http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood/success.htm

STRATEGY: ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Promote community-based planning and action to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and to introduce innovative approaches to assist communities to support individuals and families living with FASD.	**Children and Family Development**; Advanced Education; Attorney General; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Education; Health Services; Public Safety and Solicitor General	**ON TRACK:** Government has undertaken several initiatives to address FASD, including: • Establishing a research network to share information and build community capacity in Western Canada for FASD prevention and support. B.C. is the lead partner for the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership; • Developing prescribed learning outcomes related to the prevention of alcohol and drug use in the provincial curriculum; • Targeting funding to increase the number of post-secondary seats in Social Work programs; and • Launching *ActNow BC*[41] to promote healthy living and decrease preventable conditions such as FASD.
Provide supports and incentives to promote good health and prevent racism and violence.	**Health Services**; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services	**ON TRACK:** Government has launched *ActNow BC*[44], the most comprehensive health promotion program of its kind in North America. *ActNow BC* is designed to help individuals and communities protect and improve their health by promoting physical activity, healthy eating, living tobacco free and making healthy choices during pregnancy. Government hosted the Healthy Schools Forum to promote health in B.C.'s schools. Government has also developed *Guidelines for Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools*[45] in response to the M.L.A. task force on bullying, and continues to provide ongoing support to the Safe Schools Institute. Under the Critical Incident Response initiative, ten communities have put in place protocols that assist communities to prevent and respond to incidents of hate and racism. Four new communities were introduced to the model and began work on protocol development. Promoted health and safety from violence in relationships through community-based prevention projects and funded several community-based outreach programs that provide multicultural anti-violence services.
Provide skills training and employment programs to move employable income assistance clients into the labour market.	**Human Resources**	**ACHIEVED:** Employment programs are available to assist income assistance clients to find and maintain employment. Employment plans are a condition of eligibility. Activities within a plan include a self-directed job search, referral to an employment program and/or training service. The success of these programs and employment plans is shown by the reduction in the percentage of B.C.'s population receiving income assistance from 6 per cent in June 2001 to 3.6 per cent in March 2005.
Assist persons with disabilities to participate in employment, employment-related or voluntary activities.	**Human Resources**	**ACHIEVED:** Government funds employment programs to support persons with disabilities receiving income assistance to find sustainable employment or enhance their participation in the community. Government also provides supplements to those persons with disabilities who volunteer in programs that enhance employment skills.

[41] http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/actnow.html
[42] http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/actnow.html
[43] http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/

STRATEGY: SAFETY

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Enhance accountability by measuring and publicly reporting on bullying and safety in schools.	**Education**	**ON TRACK:** Government continues to monitor key areas, such as bullying, through its annual Satisfaction Survey and has developed the *Guidelines for Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools*[44] in response to a task force on bullying.
Encourage workplaces to improve safety practices and seek improvements from employers and industries with poor safety records.	**Skills Development and Labour**; Public Safety and Solicitor General	**ON TRACK:** Key initiatives of the newly created *British Columbia Forest Safety Council*[45] include silviculture safety and improving truck logging safety. The B.C. Forest Safety Council and the Workers' Compensation Board announced the implementation of the B.C. Faller Training Standard and Certification Program. A five year road safety plan is under development to improve road safety and to strengthen regulation of the commercial transport industry.
Ensure the development of socially responsible and safe industry practices.	**Skills Development and Labour**; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Public Safety and Solicitor General	**ON TRACK:** The Workers' Compensation Board continues to focus on the prevention of workplace injury, illness, and disease. The *Safety Standards Act* (SSA) came into effect on April 1, 2004 and the British Columbia Safety Authority (BCSA) was established to monitor industry compliance to the safety standards under the Act. Local governments are encouraged to actively participate in assessing new liquor-primary applications to ensure that liquor control decisions reflect community standards. Regularly conducted audits of gaming grant applicants ensure that grants are responsive to community needs and that grant recipients are in compliance.
Lower the risks of re-offending by using risk and needs assessment to determine appropriate rehabilitation programs.	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	**ACHIEVED:** Risk/Needs assessments are used to establish case management plans to address those factors known to influence re-offending (e.g., substance abuse). Correctional research has confirmed that providing programs that target these factors among higher risk offenders can reduce re-offending behaviour.
Develop legislation that offers protection for consumers and flexibility for consumer industries.	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	**ACHIEVED:** Developed licensing requirements for telemarketers to protect consumers and enhance professional standards in the industry.

[44] http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/
[45] http://www.worksafebc.com/news/archives/2004/news_releases/new_04_11_04.asp

OBJECTIVES AND KEY MEASURES

GOAL: SAFE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The province's environment is important to this generation and to future generations of British Columbians. Sustained economic competitiveness depends upon the ability to maximize the benefits from our natural resources while maintaining the quality of the environment and the health of communities. The provincial government has worked hard to promote and preserve our spectacular natural environment in partnership with other governments, First Nations, communities and citizens. The balance between protecting the physical environment and developing sustainable economic activity in the natural resource sector has been maintained. Government has taken a shared stewardship approach that has produced results.

The physical environment plays a crucial role in how we feel about our overall health and well-being. Government will continue to promote diversity in communities and help provide a sense of personal and public safety for all British Columbians.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SAFE COMMUNITIES

An individual's health and welfare are dependent upon several factors, such as community safety. Personal and property crime rates are important indicators of community safety. As well as indicating trends in crime, personal and property crime rates provide indirect measures of police workloads and the safety of individuals in their communities.

The number of personal and property crimes reported to police per 1,000 population decreased in 2004, following several years of annual increases. Violent crimes have decreased in British Columbia in recent years, from 12.6 reported crimes per 1,000 population in 2000 to 12.0 in 2004. Conversely, property crime rose from 64.2 reported crimes per 1,000 population in 2000 to 69.1 in 2003. In 2004, the number of reported property crimes decreased to 67.7 per 1,000 population. British Columbia's overall crime rate is significantly lower than in the early 1990s, although it has increased somewhat since 2001.

Crime and criminal behaviour are highly complex phenomena involving many different individual and socio-economic factors. Reduced crime rates is a multifaceted outcome that involves all components of the criminal justice system as well as many other aspects of government (such as health, education and social services) and factors that are external to government control.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY MEASURES

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SAFE COMMUNITIES

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The number of personal and property crimes known to police per 1,000 population.	Personal crimes include homicide, attempted murder, sexual offences, assault, robbery and abduction. Property offences include motor vehicle theft, break and enter, fraud, theft and possession of stolen property. A lower rate of personal and property crime can indicate a positive social and economic environment.	Decrease the number of personal and property crimes from the 2001 baseline of 77.2 per 1,000 populations. Latest Result / Year 76.8 / 2000 77.2 / 2001[46] 77.6 / 2002 81.3 / 2003 79.6 / 2004[47]	Target not Achieved. Although in 2004, there was a decrease in the number of personal and property crimes known to police per 1,000 population from that reported in 2003, the decrease did not meet the 2001 baseline target. Several factors are believed to affect crime rates, including demographics, technological change, victim response to crime, and influences on police enforcement practices. Government continues to fight crime with new resources and law enforcement strategies, including funding for an additional 215 police officers over three years.
The percentage of British Columbians reporting satisfaction with their personal safety from crime.	A sample of British Columbians responded to Statistics Canada's national survey about satisfaction with personal safety. Perceptions of personal safety affect how people participate in their communities and their general sense of well-being. Improvements in this measure indicate a greater sense of security and confidence with personal and neighbourhood safety.	Improve the percentage of British Columbians reporting satisfaction with their personal safety from crime from the 2001/02 baseline of 84 per cent. Latest Result / Year 85% / 1994/95[48] 84% / 2001/02[49] *More recent data for this measure will not be available until fall of 2005 when results of the 2004 Statistics Canada General Social Survey are released.*	2004 data not available from Statistics Canada until the fall of 2005.

[45] The results have been updated to reflect revisions by Statistics Canada. These data revisions often go back several years. Historical results are therefore updated to ensure consistency.
[47] Note that the 2004 data are preliminary. Final data will not be available until July.
[48] Figure based on 1993 Statistics Canada General Social Survey results.
[49] Figure based on 1999 Statistics Canada General Social Survey results.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Preserving the quality of our natural environment for future British Columbians is a priority for government. The sustainable development of British Columbia's natural resources supports a vibrant economy and can only be achieved while maintaining environmental integrity.

Forestry makes an enormous contribution to the wealth of the Province, creating employment opportunities for British Columbians and generating the revenues necessary to provide high-performing health, education and social welfare systems. Efficient processing of tenure applications for land and water resources strengthens this contribution. For three years in a row, Land and Water BC exceeded the target of processing 90 per cent of applications within 140 days. In 2004/05, 94 per cent of applications were processed within the 140 day timeline.

Forest certification provides government with a means to meet the interests of customers while demonstrating its commitment to sustainable forest management. The amount of Crown land certified by major certification processes has grown from 14.9 million hectares in 2002/03 to 29.5 million hectares in 2003/04. The area of land certified in 2004/05 is 98 per cent higher than the 2002/03 baseline of 14.9 million hectares, well over anticipated growth in certification levels. British Columbia continues to lead all Canadian provinces in forest certification.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The percentage of land and water tenure applications processed within established turnaround times as an indicator of quality of service delivery.	The calculations for this measure include the total number of days to process the applications but exclude time spent waiting for the conclusion of process that may be required to complete the application process that are external to government. It's an important indicator because timely access for key sectors and clients to tenures and licences supports economic development. Timely access to Crown land and water resources supports Land and Water BC's investment model that accelerates sales and revenues and enables economic growth.	90 per cent of applications will be processed within 140 days from the 2001/02 baseline of greater than 400 days. Latest Result / No. of Days to Complete Processing / Year >400 — 2001/02 92% — >140 — 2002/03 97% — >140 — 2003/04 94% — >140 — 2004/05	Target Exceeded.
The hectares of Crown and forest land in British Columbia certified by major forest certification processes[50].	The hectares of Crown and forest land in British Columbia certified by major forest certification processes is based on the area that the province's forest companies operate on where the principles, standards and measures set out for forest management performance standards are met. These performance standards are set by third-party certification groups such as the Canadian Standards Association, Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forest Initiative	Increase forest certification by 15 per cent from the 2002/03 baseline of 14.9 million hectares. Latest Result (M ha) / per cent Increase Since 02/03 / Year 14.9 — 2002/03 22.1 — 48% — 2003/04 29.5 — 98% — 2004/05	Target Exceeded. Industry recognizes that certification helps meet the interests of customers by demonstrating a commitment to sustainable forest management. Note: A combination of reporting dates was used in previous reports. Starting in 2003 the data is available only twice a year (in December and June). The data presented here have been adjusted to show December to December performance. December was chosen as the reporting date in order to achieve Government's annual reporting timelines.

[50] Major forest certification processes are established by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forest Initiative. ISO is excluded. Details can be found at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/certification

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

British Columbians value the natural environment. Preserving the quality of that environment is important for both the quality of life of individuals and the economic competitiveness of the province. Yet, as populations and economic activity increase, the quality of the environment can be threatened if development is not balanced against long-term effects on the physical environment. Government is committed to pursuing economic growth while maintaining environmental integrity.

Protecting air quality is important to British Columbians because it can affect our health, the environment and the economy. A key measure of air quality is the amount of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) in the air. Recent findings have shown that particulate matter, such as dust, soot, and tiny bits of solid material, that are 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$) pose the greatest health risk. Fine particles can enter the lungs, make breathing difficult, and lead to diseases such as bronchitis. The provincial government, in conjunction with regional districts and industry, collects $PM_{2.5}$ data from approximately 60 air quality monitoring sites from over 40 communities across the province. This province-wide monitoring network is in place to improve our understanding of $PM_{2.5}$ sources and levels. In 2004, 14 out of 16 monitored communities for which sufficient data were available achieved the Canada-Wide Standard air quality objective for $PM_{2.5}$. Government will continue to monitor and report on the quality of British Columbia's air.

Protecting water quality is critical if British Columbians are to have access to clean and safe water. This requires ongoing efforts to monitor, protect and manage water resources on both province-wide and watershed-specific levels. A key measure of water quality is trends in the presence of environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients that will indicate the cumulative effect of multi-agency land use activities and resource management activities in source watersheds. Thirty water bodies are being monitored under a federal/provincial agreement, and the target is for water quality trends to be maintained or improved in those water bodies. In 2004/05, 96 per cent of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies had stable or improving water quality. Government will continue its efforts to monitor, protect, and report on water quality trends in British Columbia.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-Wide Standard (CWS) quality objective of amount of fine particulates in the air under 2.5 microns per cubic metre of air ($PM_{2.5}$).	Particulate matter includes dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. The fine particulate matter in the air is a crucial measure of air quality. Air quality is important from a health perspective. Research has shown that particles 2.5 microns or less pose the greatest health risk to populations.	100% of communities monitored achieve, or continue to achieve, the CWS for $PM_{2.5}$ from the baseline of ten communities in 2001. **# of Communities** — **Year** 9 of 10 — 2001 10 of 11 — 2002 13 of 15 — 2003[51] 14 of 16 — 2004	Results Maintained. More communities are now able to produce statistically valid results for $PM_{2.5}$. The results indicate a positive trend that is expected to continue. Scientific studies are being conducted to identify the contributing sources to elevated $PM_{2.5}$ levels in the two communities that did not achieve the standard.
The percentage of drinking water samples with detectable fecal coli form or E. coli bacteria. (Note: this measure and associated target has been reworded to match what is in the 2005/06 Strategic Plan as the wording in the 2004/05 Annual Strategic Plan Report was not measurable).	Drinking water throughout the province is sampled to determine the level of fecal coli form or E. coli bacteria present. Clean and safe drinking water is essential to the health and wellness of British Columbians.	Reduce the percentage of drinking water samples[52] with detectable fecal coliform or E. coli from the 2001 baseline of 2.4%. **Latest Result** — **Year** 2.4% — 2001 1.9% — 2002 1.7% — 2003 1.5% — 2004	Target Exceeded. Government has dedicated additional resources to drinking water and water source protection to enhance the quality of drinking water in British Columbia.
The trends in environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients, that indicate the health of 30 water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement.	Surface water quality is monitored in 30 water bodies in the province to determine the presence of environmentally significant variables. The health of the province's water is necessary to ensure that British Columbians have access to clean and safe water.	Maintain or improve water quality trends for water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement. **Latest Result** — **Year** 90% — 2002/03 (of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies have stable or improving water quality trends) 90% — 2003/04 96% — 2004/05	Target Met. In 2004/05, 96 per cent of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies had stable or improving water quality trends, which is an improvement in results.

[51] Note: 2003 data has been revised to reflect the inclusion of an additional reporting station.
[52] The BC Centre for Disease Control tested samples in the following numbers across the province: 56,024 in 2001; 53,026 in 2002; 57,887 in 2003; and 66,831 in 2004.

D. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

British Columbia's natural resources and environment support diverse and productive uses of our land base. The quality of our soil, water and air resources are important to all British Columbians and must be sustained as we tap into the diversity and richness that is our province. Safe and efficient use of the province's energy resources is key to ensuring that we develop these resources in a sustainable manner. British Columbia's energy plan achieves environmental and economic excellence, while striving to increase the production of energy from renewable resources.

The commitment to generate new electricity supplies from clean and alternative energy sources is described within the energy policy framework, "Energy for Our Future: A Plan for B.C.". Projects to date highlight the four cornerstones of the policy: low electricity rates, secure and dependable energy supplies, environmental responsibility and increased opportunities for the private sector.

In 2004/05, as in the previous year, 100 per cent of new electricity supplies came from clean and alternative energy sources. Five new independent power projects and the expansion of one existing project commercial operations adding over 460 GW.h of electricity to the provincial grid. Four of the projects and the expansion were small hydro and one was a biomass self-generation project at a pulp mill. This represents a seven per cent increase in the amount of clean, alternative and conventional electricity generated on the BC Hydro system by IPPs. In 2003/04, all of the 640 GW.h of new electricity supplies came from nine independent power projects using clean and alternative sources, consisting of five hydro plants, two biogas projects and two biomass projects.

The sustainability of British Columbia's natural resources and environment is important. Monitoring the percentage of species that are considered threatened or endangered in the province is one way to assess this sustainability. This measure reflects the degree to which social and economic activities affect the native species and the habitat upon which these species rely. Considerable work is being done in support of species at risk protection and recovery planning. Government is also compiling better information on which wild species are secure for now, which need to be watched, and which require formal assessment, increased management or protection. British Columbia has set a target to improve on the baseline situation in 2000, which was 14.2 per cent of known native species at risk. New data for this measure will be obtained from a national report on species at risk that will be produced in 2005.

D. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TARGET AND LATEST RESULTS	COMMENT
The amount of new electricity produced from environmentally responsible sources.	The amount of new electricity produced from environmentally responsible sources supports sustainable development. Increased results indicate that we have successfully harnessed the enormous potential to meet energy needs and generate renewed economic growth and prosperity.	At least 50 per cent of new electricity supply will come from environmentally responsible sources[53]. Latest Result — Year 100% — 2003/04 100% — 2004/05	Target Exceeded.
The percentage of known native species that are threatened or endangered in the province.	Known native species (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, ferns, and orchids) that are considered 'threatened' or 'endangered' have been identified in the "Wild Species 2000: The General Status of Species in Canada" report. This report will be produced every five years. A stable or declining percentage is desirable not only as a natural legacy for future generations but also because species and habitats are a foundation for many economic activities (e.g., nature-based tourism) and their conservation is a growing expectation of the marketplace (e.g., forest industry product certification).	Improve on the province's 2000 baseline of 14.2 per cent for species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, ferns and orchids at risk. Latest Result — Year 14.2% — 2000 *No new data will be available until the 2005 national report published in 2006.*	Data not available.

[53] This measure was refined from that used in the 2002/03 Annual Strategic Plan Report and is intended to reflect the commitments made in the province's energy plan entitled "Energy for Our Future: A Plan for BC."

STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Expedite economic development by increasing access to Crown land and resources.	**Sustainable Resource Management**; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Forests; Small Business and Economic Development; Treaty Negotiations Office; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK**: Increasing access to Crown land and resources was facilitated by the following: • Completing pre-tenure plans in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area, allowing for responsible natural gas development; • Completing four coastal plans to support sustainable marine development and diversification for Quatsino Sound, the Malaspina and Okeover Inlets system and Johnston-Bute Inlet; • Identifying Crown land suitable for agriculture development and conversion from Crown to private farmland in five areas of the province; • Announcing a new world-class all-season resort at Mount MacKenzie in Revelstoke resulting in $270 million in private sector capital investment; • Signing a long-term lease with Eagle Rock Quarry near Port Alberni with royalties forecast to be $180 million over the next 50 years; • Approving 64 investigative permits for wind power in northern B.C. and developing a wind power policy; • Developing best practice Environmental Review Guidelines for evaluating applications pertaining to Crown land for agricultural purposes; and • Developing the "On the Ground" program that identifies economic development projects in the regions, and the Fast-Track process that works with investors to streamline regulatory approvals of eligible projects.
Promote resource investment opportunities within and outside of British Columbia.	**Forests**[54]; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Finance; Small Business and Economic Development; Sustainable Resource Management	**ON TRACK**: Significant work is underway to promote resource investment opportunities, including: • Increasing access to Crown land and resources through the completion of priority land use plans and access strategies; • Announcing the B.C. Resort Strategy and Action Plan and implementing a number of key initiatives that will promote investment in new resort development and expansion; • Developing new non-replaceable forest licenses for harvesting beetle killed timber to generate over a half billion dollars in new capital investment in the B.C. Interior; • Developing competitive policies and programs which resulted in attracting an additional one-half billion dollars in oil and gas investment over $4 billion in 2003/04, and increasing mining investment to more than $200 million, up from $120 million last year; • Strengthening investment in the B.C. wine industry through the Wines of Marked Quality Regulations. A recent survey of the grape wine industry indicates the industry made an estimated $35 million dollars in capital investments during their most recent fiscal year ending in 2004; and • Undertaking remediation work on a number of contaminated sites such as Britannia Mine, reducing investor concerns and increasing investment adjacent to these sites.

[54] Ministry of Forests has assumed the lead for this strategic action.

STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Develop market-based pricing regimes which include fair value for the province's land and resources.	**Forests**[55]; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Sustainable Resource Management; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** Work is underway to support market based pricing reform, including implementing legislation that takes back volume from major forest licensees for pricing purposes. B.C. Timber Sales has been restructured to sell timber at market price and a market pricing system was implemented for the Coast forest sector. A direct sale option for land and timber for 120 agriculture lessees was available during 2004/05 and work continues to evaluate the potential for the direct sale at market value of Crown timber deferrals on private land.
Implement government's energy policy to ensure secure and reliable energy supplies, more investment opportunities for the private sector and environmentally responsible energy development and use.	**Energy and Mines**	**ON TRACK:** Of the 26 Energy Plan commitments, 21 are completed or implemented and ongoing, and five are underway. For example, the British Columbia Transmission Corporation is up and running, improving access to B.C.'s electricity grid for independent power producers with rates that will be set by the British Columbia Utilities Commission.
Develop partnerships with industry and other stakeholders to provide opportunities for more effective, efficient and innovative management of Crown land and resources.	**Sustainable Resource Management**[56]; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Finance; Forests; Treaty Negotiations Office; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** A number of partnerships were developed, including: • Signing a contract with EPCOR Britannia Water Inc., as a public-private partnership, for the design, construction, financing and operation of a water treatment plant at the former Britannia Mine; • Creating a Land Titles and Survey Authority[57] and the associated partnership with the Corporation of B.C. Land Surveyors to enhance service delivery; • Facilitating the establishment the new Invasive Plant Council of B.C[58] to build cooperation and coordination to protect B.C.'s environment and minimize negative social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants; • Building B.C.'s capacity to manage drought through the establishment of the Drought Task Force, comprised of all orders of government, private sector and stewardship groups. The task force, using a highly collaborative approach, implemented the 32-point action plan to reduce drought across the province; • Implementing the Commercial Recreation Tenure Incentive Program in partnership with the Council of Tourism Association and the Wilderness Tourism Association to deal with the back country operators that were operating without tenures; • Signing (or renewing) 50 recreation site and/or trail partnership agreements bringing the total to 171 such agreements in place at this time; and • Developing six partnership arrangements with First Nations and local governments.
Ensure that Crown land and resource decisions are informed by First Nations interests	**Treaty Negotiations Office**; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Forests; Sustainable Resource Management; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** Action is being taken to ensure that Crown land and resource decisions are informed by First Nations interests. Government works with First Nations on land and resource management through a variety of forums including parks management, land use plans, treaty negotiations and specific consultation activities. Negotiations are undertaken with First Nations on all land-use plans prior to finalization. Negotiations are currently underway on all five strategic land use plans as well as a number of landscape level plans. A cross-ministry working group was established to ensure First Nations issues are being addressed in land use and resource development planning.

[55] Ministry of Forests has assumed the lead for this strategic action.
[56] Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management has assumed the lead for this strategic action.
[57] http://www.ltsa.ca/
[58] http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/

STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Improve economic development opportunities for First Nations.	**Treaty Negotiations Office**; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; Energy and Mines; Forests; Sustainable Resource Management; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** Economic development opportunities for First Nations have been improved through: • Signing 25 forestry agreements with First Nations that include revenue sharing; • Implementing 35 economic development projects to assist First Nations with opportunities in aquaculture, oil and gas development, agriculture, independent power generation and tourism; and • Providing approximately $4 million in loans, in partnership with Aboriginal Capital Corporations, that supported the creation or expansion of 129 Aboriginal businesses resulting in 333 jobs. Aboriginal Business Advisory Offices in B.C.'s Interior, supported by the First Citizens Fund, assisted 31 businesses to receive over $2.3 million in financing.
Implement the Working Forest Initiative to increase land-base certainty, enhance long-term forestry management and streamline land use decision processes.	**Sustainable Resource Management**	**ACHIEVED:** Government's Working Forest Policy helps ensure that resource communities and the forest sector have a stable, sustainable land base to support investment and jobs while maintaining opportunities for other resource use. The Working Forest Policy is being implemented using existing planning tools such as land resource management plans and by establishing land area resource targets for forestry and other uses such as wildlife habitat.
Continue to work towards achieving an environmentally sound offshore oil and gas industry by 2010.	**Energy and Mines**; Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	**ON TRACK:** Work towards achieving an environmentally sound offshore oil and gas industry included: • Continuing the development of a fiscal and regulatory regime in preparation for negotiations with Canada and First Nations; • Assisting the Council of Resource Communities conduct several "Mayor's dialogues" on offshore issues; and • Concluding a protocol agreement with the Nisga'a Nation that outlines future collaborative work in relation to public information, management and regulation, and finance. • Making a formal proposal to the federal government outlining a process to work jointly with B.C. on offshore oil and gas issues. The federal government is deciding whether to lift its moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration and development.
Implement the two-zone system for subsurface resource exploration and development.	**Energy and Mines**; Sustainable Resource Management	**ON TRACK:** Working with communities and industry, government is implementing the two-zone system by clearly distinguishing those lands open for mineral exploration and development from those that are not.
Complete remaining strategic land use plans and begin implementation.	**Sustainable Resource Management**	**ON TRACK:** Planning tables have been completed for six strategic land use plans covering an additional 12 per cent of the province – Central Coast, North Coast, Lillooet, Morice, Sea-to-Sky and Haida Gwaii/ Queen Charlotte Islands. All but the last of these plans have now moved to the next stage of negotiations with First Nations.
Secure greater provincial influence over the fisheries resource.	**Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**	**ON TRACK:** Initiated change in strategic direction through the Joint Task Group on Post-Treaty Fisheries, to enable viable fisheries, progress on treaty settlements and demonstrate that federal policy reflects provincial objectives for the management of Pacific Fisheries.

STRATEGY: SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Implement federal/provincial agreement on agriculture to develop farm plans for environmental protection.	**Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**; Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	**ON TRACK:** Leading the development, delivery and implementation of environmental farm planning, B.C. has completed 112 environmental farm plans and conducted 168 environmental farm planning workshops with 1,620 producers. Environmental farm planning is a voluntary process to find ways to accelerate efforts to reduce agricultural risk and provide benefits to water resources, soil, air and bio-diversity under the national Agriculture Policy Framework. The framework, a five-year implementation agreement with the federal government addresses the delivery of agriculture policy in food safety, environmental sustainability, risk management, and renewal, science and innovation
Provide access to integrated land, resource and geographic information for government, industry and public use.	**Sustainable Resource Management**	**ON TRACK:** Increased access to information has been provided through a range of initiatives. For instance: • 78 per cent of priority data sets have now been loaded to the resource data warehouse with resulting improvements in the speed and utility of information access; and • a pilot web-based, integrated registry of Crown legal rights and interests to land and resources for the north-east of the province is operational within government and is scheduled to be launched publicly in the spring of 2005.
Implement new outcome-based legislation for mineral exploration and forest practices.	Energy and Mines; Forests	**ACHIEVED:** Government has implemented streamlined regulatory requirements for low impact mineral exploration activities. Government is also continuing to implement the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations designed to meet the *New Era* commitment to "streamline the Forest Practices Code to establish a workable, results based-code, with tough penalties for non compliance."

STRATEGY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Protect, with partners, air and water quality in communities.	**Health Services**; Water, Land and Air Protection	**ON TRACK:** Government is undertaking several initiatives to protect air and water quality in communities, including: • Developing a comprehensive provincial air shed management framework to incorporate national and provincial guidelines, and to provide guidance to stakeholders at the provincial and local level; • Bringing into force the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, Phase 1 of the Ground Water Protection Regulation and Water Management Plan provisions. • Hiring 20 regional drinking water protection officers and 12 new water specialists to work closely with local government, health authorities and stakeholders to protect water supplies; • Investing in the Living Rivers Trust Fund to restore and revitalize our rivers and watersheds and in helping communities upgrade drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities; and • Providing $1.2 million in drought planning grants to communities to undertake studies to look at long-term drought management plans to protect water quality and quantity.
Implement made-in-British Columbia strategies and action plans to address issues associated with greenhouse gases, climate change and biodiversity.	**Water, Land and Air Protection**; Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Forests; Sustainable Resource Management; Transportation	**ON TRACK:** Government is implementing a climate change plan and is continuing to ensure that the province's interests are addressed in the national approach to address issues associated with greenhouse gases and climate change. The province, in partnership with the conservation sector, established the B.C. Trust for Public Lands to support biodiversity conservation in British Columbia. The provincial contribution of $8 million includes support for the collaborative development of a biodiversity strategy to guide public and private sector activities.
Strengthen government's capability, and partner with industry, to achieve food safety and quality and environmental performance standards.	**Agriculture, Food and Fisheries**; Health Services	**COMMENCED:** Government established a Food Policy Charter, including: • Shared responsibility for food safety; • Management of the animal disease/human disease interface; and • The *ActNow BC* healthy eating Strategy. The Charter will result in documented roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health Services and their associated agencies to increase effectiveness in responding to food safety, animal/public health issues and promoting preventative health care based on healthy eating choices. Government has also established the Meat Inspection Regulation and a meat industry enhancement strategy to provide support and guidance to industry, with the primary goal of enhancing B.C.'s meat processing capacity. This will also support the development of new market opportunities. Government has negotiated $2.6 million under the Agriculture Policy Framework to address food safety needs.

STRATEGY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY

STRATEGIC ACTION

Implement a streamlined, science-based, results-oriented regulatory approach to protect human health and the environment and ensure effective enforcement.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Forests; Health Services; Sustainable Resource Management; Water, Land and Air Protection

PROGRESS

ON TRACK: Government is implementing this strategy through the:

- *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Regulation;
- Ground Water Protection Regulation (*Water Act*);
- Sewerage System Regulation (*Health Act*) (in force May 31, 2005);
- *Food Safety Act* and Regulations including meat inspection, and dairy farm and products (under development);
- *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations with tough penalties for non-compliance;
- *Environmental Management Act* and new or amended regulations, including the Waste Discharge Regulation, the Contaminated Sites Regulation, the Hazardous Waste Regulation, and the Recycling Regulation; and
- Regulatory decisions that are being supported by considerable improvements in the accessibility and integration of resource information.

STRATEGY: COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGIC ACTION	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
Establish workable relationships with First Nations communities	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**; Treaty Negotiations Office; All Ministries	**ON TRACK:** The third annual First Citizens' Forum was held to discuss how best to support Aboriginal youth in achieving their potential. Government is building relationships with First Nations at 44 treaty tables where negotiations over Aboriginal rights and title are taking place.
Implement a community charter	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**	**ACHIEVED:** The Community Charter has created the most enabling local government framework in Canada. Government continues to support the ongoing implementation of the Charter.
Sponsor a provincial strategy that promotes physically active living through active schools, active communities and organized sport	Education; Health Services; Small Business and Economic Development	**ACHIEVED:** Government has launched *ActNow BC!*[51] to make the province the healthiest jurisdiction to ever host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. *ActNow BC!* promotes physical activity, healthy eating, living tobacco free and making healthy choices during pregnancy. *ActNow BC!* also aims to decrease the incidence of obesity, in order to offset the risks of developing osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and a host of other chronic diseases. *Action Schools! BC* assists schools in implementing programs to increase physical activity and develop a foundation for healthy living amongst school-aged students.
Integrate overlapping police services and improve the flow of information among police agencies and other justice partners	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	**ON TRACK:** Government continues to support police enhancement and integration projects, including: • Implementing the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) in Richmond, Port Moody and Vancouver, in five RCMP detachments in the Central Kootenays, and with municipal police forces throughout lower Vancouver Island; • Creating an Integrated Traffic Unit in the Capital Regional District; • establishing a new integrated police unit to monitor sexual predators and to reduce the risk of sexual assaults and other crime; and • Integrating RCMP detachments in Chilliwack, Hope, Agassiz and Boston Bar.
Implement a provincial housing strategy to address market and non-market housing needs	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**	**ON TRACK:** Implementation of the market housing strategy has been initiated. Government provides local governments with tools, such as guides and workshops, to assist in ensuring the development of affordable market housing in their communities.
Strengthen liquor control enforcement and inspections for public safety	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	**ON TRACK:** Government continues to work toward improved industry cooperation to reduce problems associated with liquor misuse by conducting risk-based inspections of licensees. Over 15,000 inspections were conducted in 2004/05 with 93 per cent of licensees in compliance.
Ensure the investment priorities of the Regional Transportation Committees are considered in the Ministry of Transportation programs	**Transportation**	**ON TRACK:** The Regional Transportation Advisory Committees submitted annual reports to the Minister of Transportation, documenting their activities and providing advice on regional transportation priorities. This advice was considered for projects to be included in the Transportation Investment Plan.

[51] http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/prevent/actnow.html

We welcome your views, comments and ideas on the contents of this Annual Strategic Plan Report.

Please send your comments to:

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